

August 2023

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## Participating Districts:

- Brighton
- Brockport
- East Irondequoit
- East Rochester
- Fairport
- Hilton
- Honeoye Falls-Lima
- Penfield
- Pittsford
- Rochester
- Rush-Henrietta
- Spencerport
- Webster
- West Irondequoit
- Wheatland-Chili

## From the Director's Desk

As we close the chapter on another successful school year, I would like to thank our program staff, parents, students, school and community partners for their remarkable work and collaborations!

I am humbled to lead Monroe One BOCES' Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program, the First and the Oldest Voluntary Desegregation Program in the United States. We began in 1965 as one of the components of "Project Unique" and the mission to Reduce Racial Isolation (deconcentrate poverty) and enhance opportunities for students in the Rochester City School District and in the suburban districts of the Greater Rochester Area" is steadfast and still being achieved today.

It has been a year of diligent labor, filled with success and accomplishments!

Within the pages of this newsletter, you will find shining examples of these accomplishments and ways to get involved!

We acknowledge the incredible journey our students have undertaken, and the significant milestones they have reached throughout their Urban-Suburban experience.

As we move into the upcoming school year, we want to continue highlighting the successes of all our students. Please continue to contact us with your student's accomplishments so we can continue to recognize and celebrate them.

Let us also take a moment to recognize the incredible family commitment of our Urban-Suburban families. As we embrace our historical legacy, we look forward to continuing to elevate our work together to create a promising future for each and every one of our students.

Sincerely,

*Felicia A. Smith*  
Program Director



## Let's Get Together!

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### Urban-Suburban Parent Advisory Council is hosting a **Back-to-School Bar-b-que!**

**When:** Saturday, August 26, 2023

**Where:** Dogwood Shelter in  
Genesee Valley Park

**Time:** 11am–3pm

**Stay Posted for More Details!**

#### **Volunteers are needed!**

We'd love for you to help!

Email: [USPACteam@gmail.com](mailto:USPACteam@gmail.com)



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### **Urban-Suburban Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**

The Urban-Suburban Parent Advisor Council (PAC) is seeking dedicated parent representatives to join from the following Urban-Suburban Districts:

- Brighton
- Fairport
- East Irondequoit
- Hilton
- Pittsford
- West Irondequoit
- Wheatland-Chili

The Council is composed of parent volunteers with at least one from each district. The role of the Council is to support the program by advocating for students and other parents.

Council members meet the first Thursday of each month, 6:00–7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise indicated).

#### **Interested?**

Email [USPACteam@gmail.com](mailto:USPACteam@gmail.com) and [Felicia\\_smith@boces.monroe.edu](mailto:Felicia_smith@boces.monroe.edu)

# Student Spotlights

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## Brighton High School award winners

During June's BHS Awards Ceremony, Chad Asante won the Urban-Suburban Principal's Award and Michael Chestnut was awarded the Urban-Suburban Scholarship.



Chad Asante



Michael Chestnut

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## Educational Foundation Scholarship

Penfield student T'Keira Mack and Wheatland Chili student Giovanni Ramirez have earned the Monroe One Educational Foundation's scholarship!

T'Keira has plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she will study accounting and political science. Giovanni will attend RIT where he will study Civil Engineering.

The Monroe One Educational Foundation's scholarship is for graduates focusing on post-high school education and workskills to prepare them for competitive employment. The Foundation was established to foster, encourage, and enrich academic programs for Monroe One students. The Foundation works collaboratively with educational and business leaders to raise funds and award grants to staff and students.

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## US students receive full ride to RIT

The first Urban-Suburban students to be awarded the Destler/Johnson Rochester City Scholars program have been named!

RIT offers the program to graduates of the Rochester City School District and approved charter schools, which for the first time now includes Urban-Suburban students.

The scholarship program covers full tuition at RIT. Scholars are expected to participate in an on-campus enrichment program this summer, prior to their freshman year. Throughout the academic year, scholars will participate in individual weekly meetings with a Multicultural Center for Academic Success coach and will receive support, guidance, and access to the campus resources available.

The following Urban-Suburban students have been accepted into the program:

- Taylor Drummond
- Jaycen Mitchel
- Giovanni Ramirez
- Philiasophia Wood

*Congratulations!*

## 44th Annual Black Scholars Ceremony

On June 5, the Urban League of Rochester hosted its yearly Black Scholars Ceremony. A number of Urban-Suburban students were honored at the event, being recognized for their commitment to their education.

By visiting [UrbanLeagueRoc.org](https://UrbanLeagueRoc.org) and clicking on 'Black Scholars' you can visit the entire list of scholars recognized and view photos taken at the event.

### Urban-Suburban Black Scholars 2023

#### Brockport High School

- Philiasophia Wood

#### East Rochester High School

- Dajania James
- Jacen Mitchell
- Kiara Coleman

#### Fairport High School

- Giovanna Steiner
- Jeffrey Craddock
- Taliah Santiago,
- Wallace Rahmaan Jr.
- Zealus Bruce Jr.

#### Irondequoit High School

- Thierry Kirui
- Tyleea Panye-Harley

#### Penfield High School

- A'zhyia Clemons
- T'keira Mack

#### Pittsford Mendon High School

- Brianna Walker
- Koury Anderson
- Nicolas Wilson

#### Pittsford Sutherland High School

- Cassidy Sayres
- Keturah Lockett

#### Rush-Henrietta High School

- Bre-Ashia Brinkley

#### Spencerport High School

- Macaria Johnson

#### Wheatland-Chili High School

- Carly Beckford
- Priscilla Kiptoo
- Taylor Drummond





# Congratulations to the Urban-Suburban 2023 graduating class!

The 2023 graduating class will soon begin the next phase of a magnificent journey. Many will pursue a post-secondary education, while others will go into the military or enter the workforce. Whatever path is chosen, we wish them nothing but success.

## Brighton High School



**Chad Asante**



**Michael Chestnut\***  
SUNY Brockport or  
Nazareth  
Major: Library Science



**Navier Lenear**  
Entering the Workforce



**Jaylen Nieves**  
Alfred University  
Major: Actuarial Science  
Football Scholarship



**Jordana Rivera-Roldan**



**Erik Tinoglio-Bookhart**

## Brockport High School



**D'Mari Rainey**  
Roberts Wesleyan College  
Major: English Adolescent  
Education



**Timothy Reed**



**Erika Vargas\***  
Major: Diagnostic Medical  
Sonography



**Philiasophia Wood\***  
Rochester Institute of  
Technology  
Major: Music and Biology  
Collegiate level tennis

## East Rochester High School



**Jeremy Blanchard**



**Kiara Coleman\***  
Russell Sage College  
Major: Interior Design and  
Graphic Engineering



**Michael Daniels**  
Plans to attend a D1 College  
Goal: Become an NFL player  
Major: Sports Economics



**Janessa Gallina**



**Tia'Jinae Gray**



**Lebria Hickman**



**Dajania "Daja" James\***  
University of Alabama  
Major: Bachelor of Fine Arts  
with concentration in Acting



**Jaycen Mitchell**  
College Undecided  
Plans: BS/Doctorate in Physical  
Therapy and Exercise Science



**Beralis Rodriguez**



**Zachariah Thomas**



**Angelo Walton**  
Trade School/  
Entering the Workforce

## Eastridge High School



**Arthur Holloway**



**Tristan Salters**  
Major: Chemistry:  
Pre-Medical for  
Undergraduates



**Jasmyrn Tolleson\***  
Monroe Community College 2+2  
Rochester Institute of  
Technology  
Major: Mechanical Engineering



## Fairport High School



**Zealus "Zeke" Bruce\***  
Utica University  
Major: Finance



**Jeffrey Craddock**  
Picking up Trades in Carpentry  
Considering College, Major:  
Engineering or Architecture



**Isaiah Davis**



**Fabian Hernandez**



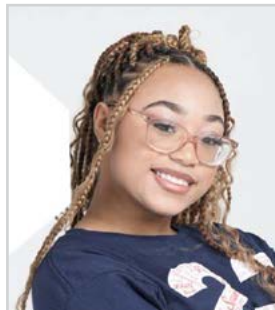
**Wallace Rahmaan\***  
SUNY Geneseo  
Major: Accounting



**Taliah Santiago\***  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Nursing



**Laylhona Sims-Rodriguez**  
Brockport College  
Major: Community Justice  
Minor: African American Studies



**Nevaeh Smith**  
SUNY Canton  
Major: Crime Analysis



**Giovanna Steiner**  
Nazareth College  
Major: Nursing



**Natalie Torres**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Psychology

## Penfield High School



**A'zhyia Clemons**  
North Carolina Central  
University  
Major: Political Science



**Lilianne Gonzalez**  
Monroe Community College  
Major: Nursing



**Kera Jones**



**T'Keira Mack**  
University of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill  
Major: Accounting



**Javier Melton**

## Mendon High School



**Koury Anderson\***



**Yashira Brown**



**Jahvion Griner-Owens**



**Leilaini Hernandez\***  
Nazareth  
Major: Physical Therapy



**Brianna Walker\***  
Hampton University  
Major: Psychology



**Nicolas Wilson\***  
St. Bonaventure University  
Major: Psychology

## Sutherland High School



**Lauryn Dukes\***  
Buffalo State University  
Major: Art



**Keturah Lockett\***  
Hampton University  
Major: Criminal Justice



**Leilani Santiago**  
Monroe Community College  
for 2 years, then Culinary  
Institute of America  
Major: Culinary Arts



**Cassidy Sayres\***  
University of North Texas  
Major: Acting and Theater



**Anaya Whitfield\***  
Bryant & Stratton College  
Major: Nursing



## Rush-Henrietta High School



**Bre-Ashia Brinkley**



**Synai Chung**  
North Carolina Central  
University  
Major: Social Work



**Ky'Ana Reeves**  
College: REOC  
Major: Nursing



**Yelizah Rodriguez**

## Irondequoit High School



**Joelle Boland\***  
Nazareth College  
Major: Special Education K-6  
Minor: Dance



**Jade Johnson**  
St. John's University  
Major: Criminal Justice



**Thierry Kirui\***  
Rochester Institute of  
Technology  
Major: Marketing



**Marc-Jacob Lopez**  
Entering the workforce to  
pursue a position as a  
City of Rochester Firefighter



**Kenyen Lovett**  
Tompkins Cortland  
Community College  
Registered Nurse Program



**Lelani Marshall**  
Major: Business/Accounting  
Goal: open salon, formulate  
own hair, skin & nail products



**Tyleea Panye-Harley**  
Spelman College  
Major: Political Science



**Rajae Salmon**  
University of Hartford  
Major: Business Advertising  
Minor: Communications



**Leah Smith**

## Spencerport High School



**Jahliza Diaz**



**Dahnae Gano**  
Rochester Institute of  
Technology



**Macaria Johnson**  
University at Buffalo  
Major: Business  
Administration



**Cheyenne Mason**  
Joining the  
United States Air Force  
and will study Nursing

## Wheatland-Chili High School



**Carly Beckford**  
SUNY Brockport  
Major: Business



**Keiara Dejesus\***  
Wells College  
Major: Nursing



**Taylor Drummond\***  
University of Buffalo  
Major: Business/Marketing



**Priscilla Kiptoo**  
Farmingdale State College  
Major: Aeronautical Science  
Plans to become a  
professional Pilot



**Giovanni Ramirez**  
Rochester Institute of  
Technology  
Major: Civil Engineering



**Demetrius Singletary**



**Shawn Swank\***  
Monroe Community College  
2+2 Program  
Major: Computer Science  
Plans to pursue career in  
Cyber Security



# Thank you to our Scholarship Committee!



*Back row,  
left to right:  
Samuel Oliver,  
Stephanie Miner,  
Monifa Batiste,  
and Tanya Powell.*

*Front row,  
left to right:  
Nikki  
Gissendanner,  
Karen Bloss, and  
Andrea Mann.*

A group of parents, high school administrators, and counselors volunteered their time to serve on our committee this year.

## Thank You!

### Parents:

- **Monifa Batiste**, Penfield
- **Karen Bloss**, Spencerport
- **Nikki Gissendanner**, Penfield
- **Andrea Mann**, Rush-Henrietta
- **Samuel Oliver**, Honeoye Falls-Lima
- **Tanya Powell**, Penfield

### High School Assistant Principal:

- **Stephanie Miner**, Fairport

They dedicated their time to review all of the criteria and allocate the funds raised.

Through money provided from voluntary contributions, annual family dues, and program fundraisers, Urban-Suburban was able to raise \$14,500 for our students!

The scholarship was established in 1985, building off a \$3,000 grant donated by the Reidman Coportation of Rochester. Through a commitment by the Urban-Suburban staff and families, program parents have awarded nearly \$340,000 to 566 program graduates.

## Interested in serving on next year's committee?

We welcome volunteers from each district to join us on the first Saturday in May to serve on the committee. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Please contact Program Director Felicia Smith if you are interested in participating by emailing [Felicia\\_Smith@boces.monroe.edu](mailto:Felicia_Smith@boces.monroe.edu).

## Congratulations to the following students who earned an Urban-Suburban Scholarship this year!

- **Koury Anderson**, Pittsford Mendon HS
- **Joelle Boland**, Irondequoit HS
- **Zealus "Zeke" Bruce**, Fairport HS
- **Michael Chestnut**, Brighton HS
- **Kiara Coleman**, East Rochester Senior HS
- **Keiara Dejesus**, Wheatland-Chili HS
- **Taylor Drummond**, Wheatland-Chili HS
- **Lauryn Dukes**, Pittsford Sutherland HS
- **Leilani Hernandez**, Pittsford Mendon HS
- **Daja James**, East Rochester Senior HS
- **Thierry Kirui**, Irondequoit HS
- **Keturah Lockette**, Pittsford Sutherland HS
- **Wallace Rahmaan**, Fairport HS
- **Taliah Santiago**, Fairport HS
- **Kassidy Sayres**, Pittsford Sutherland HS
- **Shawn Swank**, Wheatland-Chili HS
- **Jasmyn Tolleson**, Eastridge HS
- **Erika Vargas**, Brockport HS
- **Brianna Walker**, Pittsford Mendon HS
- **Anaya Whitfield**, Pittsford Sutherland HS
- **Nicolas Wilson**, Pittsford Mendon HS
- **Philiasophia Wood**, Brockport HS





Visit the Urban-Suburban Program website at:

[www.monroe.edu/US](http://www.monroe.edu/US)

A program of

