

Program Overview

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

JMBD HBCU Legacy Scholarship

Program Purpose

The JMBD HBCU Legacy Scholarship was created to support graduating high school seniors throughout the DMV who are preparing to attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) while navigating the impact of father loss and community violence.

The scholarship reflects The JMBD Foundation's commitment to education, mentorship, generational growth, and community impact through intentional investment in young people pursuing higher education and personal development.

Scholarship Inspiration

The scholarship is deeply connected to founder AJ Adams' personal experiences growing up without a father after losing his father to gun violence at four years old.

As someone who understands firsthand the challenges of navigating life, growth, and identity without consistent male guidance, AJ created the scholarship to support students who have experienced similar adversity while continuing to pursue education, leadership, and opportunity.

The program is rooted in the belief that circumstances do not define potential, and that community support, mentorship, education, and opportunity can help create generational change.

HBCU Commitment

AJ Adams' own path runs through two HBCUs — Howard University and Fayetteville State University, where he earned his degree. He understands the importance of the community, culture, mentorship, exposure, and opportunities that HBCUs provide for students navigating important stages of personal and professional growth.

The scholarship seeks to encourage and support students pursuing the unique educational and cultural experience HBCUs provide while helping position them for long-term success and impact within their communities.

Scholarship Goals

- Support students impacted by father loss and violence

Program Overview

- Encourage educational advancement and HBCU enrollment
- Invest in future leaders within the community
- Provide encouragement, visibility, and opportunity for students overcoming adversity
- Create generational impact through education and mentorship
- Remind students and families that they are supported by their community

Initial Scholarship Structure

The scholarship initially provides three awards:

- One recipient from Washington, DC (All Wards)
- One recipient from Maryland (all counties, including Baltimore)
- One recipient from Virginia (all counties and cities, including Richmond and Hampton Roads)

Each scholarship recipient will receive:

- A \$1,000 scholarship award
- Recognition through The JMBD Foundation
- Future mentorship and community engagement opportunities connected to the organization