

The **STEM PIPELINE** Begins with Pre-College Initiative (PCI)

**NSBE Jr. Chapter -Creative and Striving Hard  
to Succeed (C.A.S.H.)** is celebrating our  
10-year Anniversary

Sponsorship Package

HELP us HELP our YOUTH



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March 17, 2023

Dear Supportive Sponsor,

We are the Southern Maryland student chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr. and our chapter name is Creative and Striving Hard to Succeed (C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr). Our mission is to expose K-12 grade students to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

NSBE is a national organization with chapters all over the United States and internationally. Our chapter was chartered in 2013 and has enjoyed continued growth since that time. This year we are celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Though our journey has been demanding, it is truly rewarding as we reflect on the hundreds of lives we impact.

We provide STEM exposure through interactions with college students pursuing STEM majors and professionals working in the field, local field trips, hands-on activities, conferences, cultural enrichment and competition team opportunities. We believe that C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr is a valuable asset to the community. The chapter has offered the students so many “Firsts” and we are proud of our accomplishments. Our chapter has the distinct honor of being named Chapter of the Year for two consecutive years (2017 and 2018) for our program out of 145 NSBE Jr chapters located across the U.S., Canada, Bahamas and United Arab Emirates.

Because we are located in rural Southern Maryland, there are not many local corporations in our area. We aim to provide students exposure to STEM and life changing inspiration and encouragement to excel and succeed.

Our efforts are only made possible through generous sponsorships by people like you. We are actively soliciting financial support for our Chapter in honor of our 10 years of service. Our chapter operates under the IRS recognized nonprofit, LEAP Forward, Inc. The Tax EIN number is 52-2169397. Your support of our mission is greatly appreciated as we strive to make a difference in the lives of our students. Please visit our Facebook page and website: NSBE JR. CASH Calvert County <https://www.facebook.com/pg/nsbejrcash> and <https://www.cashnsbejr.com> to learn more about our program. Thank you for your consideration of our request!

*About LEAP Forward, Inc.*

LEAP Forward is an independent, nonprofit organization that is poised to inspire, engage, educate, and expose youth to a better and productive future. The organization is passionately committed to helping youth make better life and career choices; encouraging youth to excel in school; promoting STEM careers; and striving to increase the participation of underrepresented youth in the technological jobs pipeline. In July 2023, we will celebrate 22 years of service. More information about our services can be found at [https://issuu.com/leapforwardinc/docs/2021\\_scholarship\\_book\\_issuu\\_final](https://issuu.com/leapforwardinc/docs/2021_scholarship_book_issuu_final)

C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr's program directly aligns with the NSBE mission "to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers that excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community."

*The STEM pipeline begins with Pre-College Initiative (K to 12). C.A.S.H. is your supply chain.*

*Funds received will be used for STEM kits, supplies and materials, transportation costs, small speaker travel stipends, meeting spaces, STEM competition materials, educational books, snacks, conference registrations, and team(s) gear.*

**Thank you** again for your consideration of our request!

Sincerely,

***Rhonda Thomas***

LEAP Forward Inc. President and Founder

NSBE Jr. Advisor

### **Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities**

The C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. 10-year Anniversary/Sponsorship Event is scheduled for October 7, 2023. The descriptions below highlight the various levels of sponsorship. We hope that you will consider assisting our chapter. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

#### **C.A.S.H. Premier Sponsor: \$10,000**

- Naming rights VIP reception and logo on all event materials
- 25' banner at event
- Opportunity for sponsor to speak at event
- Full page ad in newsletter and Souvenir Booklet and advertising on social media
- Logo featured on website and social media for one year, on invitations, and event materials
- 12 tickets to event – 2 tables (Option: out of the area – donate tickets to our student members)

#### **C.A.S.H. Champion Sponsor: \$5,000**

- Naming rights for VIP reception
- Full page ad in newsletter and Souvenir Booklet and display advertising at event
- Featured in newspaper and advertising on social media
- Logo featured on website and social media for one year, on invitations, and event materials
- 12 tickets to event – 2 tables (Option: out of the area – donate tickets to our student members)

#### **C.A.S.H. Advocate Sponsor: \$2,500**

- Full page ad in newsletter and Souvenir Booklet and display advertising at event
- Featured in newspaper and social media for event
- Logo featured on website and social media for one year and on invitations and event materials
- 6 tickets to event - 1 table (Option: out of the area – donate tickets to our student members)

#### **C.A.S.H. Promoter Sponsor: \$1,000**

- ½ page ad in newsletter and Souvenir Booklet and display advertising at event
- Featured in newspaper advertising for event
- Name listed on event invitations and logo featured on website and social media for six months
- 4 tickets to event (Option: out of the area – donate tickets to our student members)

#### **C.A.S.H. Supporter Sponsor: \$500**

- ¼ page ad in newsletter and Souvenir Booklet and logo featured on website and social media for six months
- 2 tickets to event (Option: out of the area – donate tickets to our student members)

#### **C.A.S.H. Friend Sponsor: \$300**

- Listing on website and social media for three months
- 2 tickets to event (Option: out of the area – donate tickets to our student members)

#### **Monetary Donation: Any amount**

## Accomplishments

We are certainly proud of the impact we have made in the lives of underrepresented disadvantaged youth from rural Southern Maryland. Below is a list of ‘firsts’ that our students have achieved by participating in our NSBE Jr. chapter and programs.

### **Our “Firsts”**

1. Our first Chapter President graduated in May 2018 with a degree in Chemical Engineering from Hampton University and now works for the Navy
2. First time participating in teams and conducting design projects
3. First time flying on an airplane
4. First time traveling out of the County
5. First time competing in a National Competition
6. First time traveling to Indianapolis, Nashville, Anaheim, Boston, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Greensboro, Charlotte, Miami, and Detroit
7. First time meeting STEM professionals (biomedical, civil, electrical, mechanical, systems, architectural and chemical engineers, medical doctors and physicist)
8. First time meeting STEM professionals from Boeing, NASA, Applied Physics Lab, FAA, CIA, Navy, and Washington Gas
9. First time appearing in a magazine
10. First time featured on the cover of a National magazine
11. First time having their name and photograph in local newspaper
12. First time building and launching rockets
13. First time meeting one of NASA’s Hidden Figures (Dr. Christine Dardin)
14. First time receiving \$5000 Scholarship awards
15. First time meeting students from other local schools and forming relationships
16. First time receiving a trophy for success in a STEM competition
17. First time attending a career fair with over 150 companies represented
18. First time holding a leadership position in an organization

19. First time becoming familiar with the engineering design process
20. First time visiting cultural landmarks (for example, Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument in Washington DC, National Negro League Museum in Kansas City, MO, International Civil Rights Center and Museum (Woolworth) in Greensboro, NC, African Meeting House in Boston, MA, Microsoft in Pentagon City, VA)
21. First time visiting a college or university (for example, University of Maryland, University of Pittsburgh, Hampton University, Norfolk State University, Johnson C. Smith University, Howard University, George Mason University, North Carolina A&T State University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tennessee State University, Harvard University, and Carnegie Mellon University)
22. First time “Coding” during a Microsoft workshop and creating a team website
23. First time touring the manufacturing and test facility and industries, (for example, Bowling Ball Factory – Ebonite, NASA Wallops Island, Patuxent Naval Air Test Center,

Below is a list of ‘awards and recognitions’ that our students have achieved by participating in our NSBE Jr. chapter and programs.

### **Our “Awards”**

1. “Victorious in Boston” - The Ten80 Education Racing Challenge team, the Calvert Cruisers, won three convention trophies and finished second overall
2. “NSBE Jr. CASH Rocks in Greensboro”, NSBE Fall Regional Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina
3. CASH middle school MATHCOUNTS team, Math “PI” Rates, and the high school Try Math A Lon team, Absolute Values, both secured second place wins
4. The radio control racing car team Calvert Cruisers dominated the Racing event and secured first place wins for Overall Performance and for the Racing Challenge. The team also captured second place for their Enterprise Presentation
5. Radio control racing car middle school team, Calvert Cruisers Next Generation secured first place wins for Enterprise Presentation and Graphic Design

6. Several elementary students also received certificates for completing STEM hands-on activities at the Kid Zone event
7. “Local STEM Group highlighted in 2019 Conference Magazine”, 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
8. In 2018 NSBE Jr. CASH won their second consecutive National Chapter of the Year from among 145 NSBE Jr. Chapters
9. C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. was recognized as the Region II NSBE Jr. Chapter of the Year
10. CASH NSBE Jr. recognized as the National NSBE Jr. Chapter of the Year in 2017
11. CASH NSBE Jr. Featured on the cover of the NSBE Jr. Bridge Magazine
12. CASH NSBE Jr. Advisor wins award from the Comptroller of Maryland
13. The Ten80 Radio Control race team, Calvert Cruisers Next Generation, won 3<sup>rd</sup> place Overall, 1<sup>st</sup> place Graphic Design, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Web based points race, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Data Driven Design and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Enterprise Presentation.
14. FIRST Lego Jr. team, Moon Legend, won Best Show and Tell and Master Programming
15. NSBE Golden Torch Award, Malcom Roy Brown and Kenadi Parran Wilkerson were named Pre-College Initiative (PCI) male and female students of the year
16. CASH member receives first time awarded NSBE Founder’s \$5000 Scholarship
17. KidWind competition team wins second place at NSBE Annual Convention
18. Calvert Cruisers Next Generation secured first place win in 2020 for NSBE Ten80 Racing Car Challenge (Middle School) and first place for Ten80 National Competition (Middle School)





Below is a list of ‘impacts’ that our students have achieved by participating in our NSBE Jr. chapter and programs.

### **Our “Impacts”**

1. Founded with 13 members, steady yearly increase in membership
2. Introduced hundreds to the achievements of African Americans Scientists and Inventors through traveling historical exhibit
3. Increased math aptitude with math tutoring and enrichment
4. Bolstered confidence and leadership skills
5. Increased participation in STEM activities (e.g. ~80% of chapter attendees at NSBE49 Annual Convention are first time attendees)
6. Increased awareness in the community through media outlets (e.g. published News articles and social media posts)
7. Enhanced chapter programs by offering expanded access to broader STEM activities (e.g. Algebra by 7th Grade by Purdue University, Youth in Aviation Free Ground Flight Training)
8. NSBE Jr. Advisors received 8 community awards for their service to youth
9. Sustained high level satisfaction with parents and members (e.g. survey data)
10. Heightened STEM exposure among underrepresented youth in a rural community

### **Testimonials From Current and Past Members**

Being a part of the NSBE Jr. CASH chapter laid the foundation to my engineering career. This organization provided me with amazing mentors that exposed me to a variety of professional problem solving skills. I was given the opportunity to give back to my community through volunteering events at our local high schools and Boys & Girls club that exposed students to STEM topics and black excellence. Throughout the 5 years of being involved in the Chapter there was always an abundance of support for the students through networking opportunities, academic support with tutors, and guest speakers with diverse backgrounds. NSBE Jr. prioritized kids K-12 with and assisted with developing leadership characteristics, effective communication, and confidence. The CASH chapter also provided an abundance of resources for seniors to seek scholarship opportunities as well as SAT/ACT prep courses. This chapter jumped started my network in the engineering field and provided me with an academic path that positioned me for a career as a Mechanical Engineer at a fortune 500 company.

#### **Jerrell, Ford Mechanical Engineer**

Membership in NSBE Jr CASH has left a lasting impact and served as a foundation for my success. As a former Treasurer and competition team Program Manager I learned about STEM, made new friends and had the chance to pursue new opportunities. It helped me to enhance my leadership and communication skills. Participation in NSBE conferences and conventions broadened my knowledge of STEM careers and expanded my network. I valued being a part of the chapter so much that I continued to participate in NSBE at the collegiate level, serving as the president of my college chapter. The exposure gained through NSBE Jr CASH enabled my pursuit of a computer science degree and eventually led me to work for the Department of the Navy first as a STEM intern and now as a STEM professional. Thank you NSBE Jr CASH!

#### **Kenadi, Navy (Civilian) Computer Science**

As a proud member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE Jr. CASH), I am grateful I was able to be a part of a chapter that invested in young African American boys and girls looking for careers in the engineering field. The leaders were very encouraging and always looked for ways to enlighten us about STEM through history and current technology. NSBE Jr. CASH helped me gain a better understanding and appreciation for the path I was about to take. I learned what it meant to be an engineer, and what I needed to do to achieve my goal. Being a member of this chapter was important because I was exposed to opportunities that I may not have had otherwise, the chapter instilled a sense of pride and dignity to know that there were great African American engineers that paved the way for me. I am Alex and I am a Mechanical Engineer working in my field at Northrop Grumman. Thank you NSBE Jr. CASH!

#### **Alex, Engineer Northrop Grumman**

NSBE Jr-CASH has and will always have a special place in my heart! It was part of my foundation for where I am today. Knowing and getting the confidence that I can one day become a very successful young African American woman engineer, was key to my success! It was a safe environment to be creative and express myself. As well as exposure to many different avenues that were available to me as a young engineer and the multitude of career paths I could take. Through my time within NSBE Jr, I was able to network with many different engineers in many disciplines to get the education and career advice I needed.

### **Keshia, Chemical Engineer Navy**

After seven years as a member of my National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr. C.A.S.H. chapter, I have grown remarkably. I have expanded my understanding and love for engineering and developed leadership skills and much-needed self-confidence over the years. In addition, NSBE jr. C.A.S.H. has allowed me to network, make meaningful connections, and participate in numerous STEM-related activities and competitions. The mission of NSBE jr. is to teach its members to lead, achieve, and excel while encouraging them to impact their community positively. I have demonstrated these principles over the last three years as chapter treasurer, vice president, and current president for 2022-2023. These leadership positions enabled me to step outside my comfort zone, speak confidently before large audiences, and make a difference in my community. NSBE Jr. continues to mean a great deal to me and has been an invaluable experience that has significantly impacted my development.

### **Tori, CASH NSBE Jr President 2023 Graduating High School Senior**

As a Past President of our CASH NSBE Jr. chapter I was exposed to so many opportunities. Not only did I enhance my leadership skills but being a part of this group solidified my decision to pursue engineering in college. It helped to reinforce the importance of having mentors and professionals to lend an ear and give solid advice that was so critical to my success. They were always willing to share knowledge and give support. Networking with students at my college choice (NC A&T) during the convention was a big plus. So grateful for my time with my NSBE Jr. chapter - CASH!

### **Juwan, Engineer Booz Allen Hamilton**

### Testimonials from Parents

*I believe NSBE Jr. has opened my daughter's eyes to the vast world of engineering through her Chapter's activities and firsthand exposure to a diverse group of professional engineers. Throughout our day to day life she often shares terms and facts that relate to engineering and technology. I have watched her lead by example as well as inspire and motivate other students in the chapter. I am certain her knowledge base, leadership and people skills are primarily attributed to her membership in NSBE Jr. **Mom #1***

*Absolutely! NSBE has been an inspiration to DJ. He has a greater outlook on his future. He has gained confidence in himself and in his ability to learn new ideas & concepts. He really enjoys being a part of a team & the opportunity to be a leader. I believe this has also had a positive impact on his self-esteem. **Mom#2***

*NSBE Jr. has been such a positive influence for JT. We were blessed to find out about the group 2 years ago at National Night Out. NSBE, Jr. has been an extended family to us. Jay has been exposed to many great opportunities such as college/university tours, engineering conferences and numerous community service activities. NSBE, Jr. has definitely sparked a previously dim flame in Jay's mind to strive harder. NSBE, Jr. has given Jay a different outlook on math, science and engineering. It's great to know that there are still individuals in the community who care about the future of the youth. **Mom#3***

*NSBE Jr's impact on CF has been tremendous! He rarely wants to participate in age oriented activities. His commitment to NSBE Jr has been faithful. I don't have to remind him of events, and how important it is to engage in them. He does it without hesitation! He reminds me of deadlines and events. He shares the information he learned without me urging him to do so. I'm hoping that he will continue his involvement with NSBE at the collegiate level. **Mom#4***

*As a parent I have noticed how JJ has grown in character over the past three years being involved in NSBE. He is more confident and displays greater leadership skills than before. Through NSBE JJ has gone on trips that have exposed him to numerous workshops and colleges. He now has great relationships with students of like mind and interest. **Mom#5***

CASH NSBE Jr. 10-year Anniversary

Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, Inc. (LEAP Forward, Inc.) Sponsorship Form

Sponsor Information

Sponsorship Level \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization/Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

All Sponsorship Donations are 100% tax deductible IAW IRS guidelines.

Make checks payable to LEAP Forward, Inc., P.O. Box 373, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

Sponsorship donations can also be submitted online. PayPal Giving donations [paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/207613](https://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/207613). CashApp donations \$leap4ward. Zelle donations via email [leapforwardinc@yahoo.com](mailto:leapforwardinc@yahoo.com). Contact us for ACH Electronic Payments information.

Thank You

## SAVE THE DATE

Join Us

*10 Year Anniversary*

# NSBE Jr CASH

**October 7, 2023 | 6:00pm – 10:00pm**

**SMART Building | 44219 Airport Road | California, MD 20619**

Founded in January 2013 with 13 student members, Creative and Striving Hard to Succeed (CASH) National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr. Chapter now celebrates 10-years of achievements, awards, recognition, success, blessings, struggles and tremendous impacts on hundreds of students' lives all throughout Southern Maryland. This is a great accomplishment for our Chapter. Save the Date and Join Us as we highlight our 10-years of dedicated service.



# C.A.S.H. NSBE JR.

## REPEATS AS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR!



PHOTO BY MELVIN CONTEE

By Tonya Wilkerson and Rhonda Thomas, C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. Chapter Advisors

Since its humble beginnings in 2013 with only 13 charter members, the Creative and Striving Hard (C.A.S.H.) NSBE Jr. Chapter, of Calvert County, Maryland, has not only grown in numbers but has significantly increased its reach and impact. Recognized as the Region II NSBE Jr. Chapter of the Year and the National NSBE Jr. Chapter of the Year in 2017, C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. has continued to maintain a high level of member engagement and community involvement, resulting in recognition with the same honors in 2018. The chapter received its latest awards during the National Society of Black Engineers' 44th Annual Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in March of last year.

The chapter's activities for NSBE's 2017–18 program year spanned several pillars: STEM engagement and engineering diversity, community involvement and cultural engagement. These activities broadened the chapter members' knowledge and awareness of STEM and positively impacted the community, thereby investing directly in the career "pipeline" needed for NSBE to achieve its main goal of leading the U.S. to graduate 10,000 Black Engineers annually by 2025.

The activities during the year included, among others:

### STEM ENGAGEMENT

- Participation in NSBE's Region II Fall Terror Zone Summit and Region II Fall Regional Conference, with C.A.S.H. teams in multiple competitions: the Ten80 Student Racing Challenge (high school and middle school level), MATHCOUNTS and Try-Math-A-Lon. These experiences offered chapter members opportunities to engage with other NSBE Jr. members and learn from NSBE collegiate and professional members.
- A STEM event in February 2018 featuring Christine Darden, Ph.D., retired NASA mathematician and aerospace engineer, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Darden, who was profiled in the book "Hidden Figures" by Margot Lee Shetterly, shared her experiences as a pioneer in STEM and educated students on supersonic flight and sonic booms. The Black History Month event emphasized the contributions of African Americans to STEM, was open to the community and was well-attended by students and adults, with 167 participants in total. C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. partnered with other local organizations to present the event.
- A Makers Faire, which encouraged creativity in innovation. Nearly 40 chapter members worked in teams to come up with solutions to a wide range of challenges that could

be solved by engineers. One team addressed the question, “What new technology would you develop to help passengers transport carry-on luggage from the airport entrance to the airplane without passengers’ having to carry it through the airport?” Teams selected materials from an assortment of items to build a prototype. Each team presented its solutions and answered questions about its proposed designs. Judges awarded prizes to the top teams.

### ENGINEERING DIVERSITY

- A speakers series and hands-on activities. One session included speakers from Exelon Corporation, who provided insights into nuclear engineering careers for C.A.S.H. students, many of whom are familiar with Exelon’s Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant nearby. The session concluded with a hands-on activity focused on aerospace engineering, in which the students built and launched model rockets. A total of 50 chapter members participated in the session.

the 3CY Tree of Angels Book Drive by donating 394 new and gently used books during the 2017 Thanksgiving holiday.

Bowie State University, child adolescent studies; Kayla Williams, Bowie State University, pre-med; Grantley Bourne, College of Southern Maryland, bio-



### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Support of a local nonprofit, Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth (3CY) in a number of events. C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. participated in two 3CY Creative Resources Expos, which raise awareness of educational activities available to youth in the community, sharing information about the chapter and the learning opportunities available through its competitions. C.A.S.H. also participated in

### CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

- Sponsorship of a visit for chapter members to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, in conjunction with NSBE’s Region II Fall Regional Conference. The visit was educational for the group and highlighted the impact that students had on the U.S. civil rights movement.

Although not shown in the photo on the preceding page, C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. had 13 high school seniors who were key contributors to the high level of engagement with students in 2017–18. They are now pursuing college degrees, most of them as STEM majors: Dorien Minor, Georgia Tech, atmospheric science/aerospace engineering; Kenadi Wilkerson, Towson University, computer science; Malcolm Brown, Morehouse College, aerospace engineering; Taylor Jackson, Georgia Tech, computer engineering; Tiffany Jackson, University of South Carolina, pre-med; Destiny Dillon,

chemistry; Samirah Brown, Hampton University, kinesiology; LaVonne Alston, Messiah College, international business; Brandon Hooker, College of Southern Maryland, music and art; Jaeden White, Frostburg University, mechanical engineering; and Dia Brown, University of Vermont, environmental engineering, who initiated a NSBE chapter at the school.

C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. has had a great 2018–19 program year as well, and is working within the local community to attract underrepresented students to build a stronger passion for STEM. The chapter hopes to build a more powerful NSBE presence across the state and is extending its connections with other NSBE Jr. chapters, local employers and nonprofit organizations. CASH recently received its third year of financial support from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, which is a strong sponsor of the chapter’s activities. ■



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## GOLDEN TORCH HONOREES

design activities supporting the development of the Airbus PW1100G Geared Turbo Fan, HPW3000 military helicopter and Adaptive Engine Technology Development sixth-generation military jet fighter engines. Later in his career, Shuaib transitioned to a project management role, leading cross-discipline teams for the Adaptive Engine Technology Development/Adaptive Engine Transition Program military program and PW1000G engines field investigations. He continued to drive his teams toward P&W core goals of technological excellence and focus on quality and customer satisfaction. Shuaib has recently been named Seal Design Discipline deputy manager. In this role, he will be responsible for leading resolution of technical challenges, teaching and developing analytical tools, and mentoring of team members.

Shuaib is an active member of P&W's Diversity and Inclusion council and activities and is passionate about continuously improving the engineering culture locally and globally.



**Pre-College Initiative Student of the Year (Male)**

**Malcolm Roy Brown**  
C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. Chapter

**Malcolm R. Brown** is a senior at Huntingtown High School, in Huntingtown, Md., with plans to attend

college and major in engineering after his graduation in 2018. When he isn't playing sports or doing school work, Brown spends time building model rockets, practicing the violin or growing his business: for the past three years, he has demonstrated his entrepreneurial talent as the owner and operator of "Roy's Lawn Service," which now has 14 regular customers.

Brown is vice president of operations of the Creative and Striving Hard (C.A.S.H.) NSBE Jr. Chapter, in Calvert County, Md., and is the engineering lead for the chapter's Ten80 Student Racing Challenge remote-controlled race car team. Brown loves to volunteer and help those around him through activities such as mentoring with the Swaliga Foundation, teaching children aged 6–14 about STEM topics. He also presides over his school's chapter of the National Honor Society, which conducts outreach efforts and community service projects. His other school activities include VEX Robotics, the Transitioning into Excellence club, the student government and the track team.

Brown is an honor student with a 3.99 GPA and has completed AP calculus I and II, physics I and C, composition and rhetoric, and government. Engineering courses he has completed include PLTW Pathway Intro to Engineering, Principles of Engineering, Digital Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, and Engineering Design and Development.



**Pre-College Initiative Student of the Year (Female)**

**Kenadi Parran Wilkerson**  
C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. Chapter

**Kenadi Parran Wilkerson** is a senior at Huntingtown High School in Huntingtown, Md. She

joined Creative and Striving Hard (C.A.S.H.) NSBE Jr. in 2013, shortly after the chapter was chartered. Wilkerson has held multiple leadership positions with the chapter since then, including treasurer, programs chair, and program manager for the Calvert Cruisers Ten80 Student Racing Challenge team. She is now the chapter's membership chair and in her third year of managing the Calvert Cruisers.

Wilkerson is an honors student and a member of her school's VEX Robotics team, the Future Business Leaders of America and the National Business Honor Society. She has served as Class of 2018 historian for two years and as manager of Huntingtown High's junior varsity and varsity volleyball and basketball teams.

Wilkerson is a member of the Plum Point United Methodist Church, where she is an active Sunday school, youth choir and liturgical dance team member. She plans to pursue a degree in computer science and aspires to become a software engineer.



**Pre-College Initiative Director of the Year**  
**Xavier Nicholas Horton, PMP**

Engineering Project Leader  
**Caterpillar Inc.**

**Xavier Horton** has led many initiatives during his more than 10-year career with Caterpillar Inc. He

now guides a global team focused on delivering test infrastructure solutions for use in Hardware-in-the-Loop and Software-in-the-Loop machine/engine test applications. Horton is a proud graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science in electrical/computer engineering. He is also a certified project management professional.

Horton discovered NSBE after going through a rough set of first-semester engineering midterms during his freshman year. NSBE was his saving grace, providing a family away from home and a support system that helped him successfully navigate college life.

Horton was a founding member of the Central IL Alumni Extension Chapter of NSBE (now the Central IL Professionals) and served as the chapter's Pre-College Initiative chair and president from 2008 to 2012. In 2012, he chartered the Central IL (CI) NSBE Jr. Chapter, in partnership with the Tri-County Urban League (TCUL), in Peoria, Ill., and has served as its adviser since its inception.

Horton constantly pursues opportunities to expose his students to unique STEM opportunities. He cofounded and serves as the lead facilitator for the

# NSBE Jr. Advisor Receives Honor for 'Helping People'

By Cindy Atoji

People helping people: that's what STEM activist Rhonda Thomas has long been about, creating opportunities for underserved youth to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. She created LEAP Forward, Inc. in 1998, a nonprofit organization based in Calvert County, Md., that encourages kids to "learn, excel, achieve, perform, explore, and rise." Her commitment to making an impact was recently recognized by a statewide award. She received the William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award for her public service.

LEAP Forward, Inc., closes the achievement gap by providing STEM literacy, academic enrichment, tutoring and mentoring, and financial assistance. Its programs include a NSBE Jr. chapter named Creative and Striving Hard (C.A.S.H.). Launched only five years ago, C.A.S.H. has already earned the NSBE Jr. Chapter of the Year title, in 2017, and had two of its members selected to receive NSBE's highest honor, the Golden Torch Award, this year: Malcolm Roy Brown and Kenadi Parran Wilkerson were named Pre-College Initiative (PCI) Students of the Year.

"I don't know where we would be without the support and connections that LEAP provides," says Brown.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without Thomas' own life story, which includes being rescued from underachievement. She credits the intervention of a thoughtful high school counselor, Wallace Leeper, whose name and legacy LEAP pays tribute to. Leeper worked tirelessly to direct local Calvert County students toward the engineering profession in the 1970s. Those students included Thomas, who had not considered an engineering career before she spoke with him.

"I didn't even know what an engineer was," says Thomas, who, thanks to Leeper's encouragement, went on to become an electrical engineer and the first African-American woman to graduate from a joint academic and employment program with Tennessee State University and Patuxent Naval Air Test Center.

She was working as an engineer for the Federal Aviation Administration when she saw local kids in the community being satisfied with merely getting a high school degree and a job at a big box store so they could buy a car.

"Young people weren't making a lot of good choices, so I saw a need to help direct and inspire kids for a better future," says Thomas, who is proud of the fact that of 12 C.A.S.H. graduating high school seniors, 75 percent will be pursuing STEAM majors in college.

When Thomas received the Helping People Award from Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, she immediately started lobbying to bring benefit to the organization. Attendees at the award ceremony were exposed to information about all of LEAP's programs and ways they could contribute. She and Franchot discussed internships for LEAP students, and Thomas is also hoping the award will help her raise funds for her community efforts.

The award wasn't the first for Thomas, a NSBE lifetime member who has been lauded frequently for her work with LEAP, but she is quick to say that she's proud that LEAP and

C.A.S.H. make many firsts possible for disadvantaged students.

"The first time attending a convention like NSBE's and, for many, the first airplane ride because of that; the first time meeting professional engineers; the first time learning about new STEM topics and ideas: I am proud of opening up all these firsts for students and exposing kids to new experiences," says Thomas.

Wilkerson, the PCI Student of the Year, is grateful to her.

"I am grateful to LEAP Forward, Inc. for establishing C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr.," she says. "I've become a more confident leader, expanded my knowledge and gained exposure to students with common goals and professionals working in STEM fields. I am but one of the many students that LEAP Forward, Inc. and C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. have positively impacted." ■



COMPTROLLER OF MARYLAND

Rhonda Thomas, founder and chapter advisor of C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr., receives the William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award from Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot. (Feb. 21, 2018)

# NSBE bridge

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS' PRE-COLLEGE MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2017

## Annual Convention Replay

### SEEK 2017 Preview

### Math Tips *'Time Is Money!'*

# C.A.S.H. RULES

## CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



# C.A.S.H.ing In!

By Cindy Atoji

**NSBE Jr. Chapter - CASH**

*Creative and Striving Hard to Succeed*

Calvert County, Maryland



Calvert County isn't widely known outside of Maryland. But recently, this exurban neighbor of Washington, D.C., had a claim to fame: it was where one of the three African-American women featured in the film "Hidden Figures" started her mathematics career. Mary Winston Jackson worked at NASA, the U.S. space agency, from 1951 to 1985, and before that, she once taught math at the only black high school in Calvert County. This was in the days of "Jim Crow" racial segregation laws, and blacks and whites were educated in separate schools. The school facilities and resources for black students were poor, and very few graduated. Most quit school and became farmers, and others went into the military service or found careers in one of the few other occupations that were open to blacks.

Today, Jim Crow laws are history, high school graduation rates among African Americans are rising, and there are other signs of progress, such as the growth of the Creative and Striving Hard (C.A.S.H.) NSBE Jr. Chapter, of Prince Frederick, Md., the county seat of Calvert County.

The chapter started four years ago with 13 members and has grown from 39 members to 63 members in the past year alone. On this past April 1, at NSBE's 43rd Annual



# Creative and Striving Hard NSBE Jr., Chapter of the Year

Convention in Kansas City, Mo., C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. was named NSBE Jr. Chapter of the Year, because of the way it exemplified NSBE's mission. C.A.S.H. also received Chapter of the Year honors for Region II.

Chapter Advisor Rhonda Thomas, who founded C.A.S.H., and Advisor Tonya Wilkerson, who directs the chapter's operations, say the word "busy" defines the group. Activities range from science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) sessions to academic and career support workshops, team-building exercises, hands-on activities, community service, conference attendance and cultural events. Chapter member Jay Tyler, who serves as vice president of programs for C.A.S.H., says, "C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. has helped me prepare for the next steps in life and has equipped me for the future. The group sparked (my) interest in engineering and careers in STEM."

## TRANSFORMATION

Thomas was inspired to start the NSBE Jr. group while attending NSBE's 2012 Annual Convention. There, she heard grim facts about minority groups underrepresented in engineering and poor academic performance of African Americans in math and science. Thomas was moved by the speech, and along with another engineer, Shanell Nero, she decided to start a NSBE Jr. chapter. The group's first meeting was held at a local pizza restaurant.

That first year, three members went to Indianapolis for NSBE's 2013 Annual Convention. Last year, 30 members of C.A.S.H. went to the convention, in Boston.

"We have come a long way from the beginning to where we are now, and I believe we can go much further," says C.A.S.H. member Jocelyn Berry, who is the chapter secretary and the webmaster for the chapter's Ten80 Student Racing Challenge team, the Calvert Cruisers.

C.A.S.H. — Creative and Striving Hard to Succeed — is a name chosen by chapter members. Thomas admits that all were a little concerned at first because of the implications revolving around money. But they agreed that, after all, "cash" is important for scholarships and also highlights the potential for higher salaries in the STEM fields. Already, the chapter's 2012–13 president is an engineering student at Hampton University, the 2013–14 and 2015–16 presidents are engineering students at North Carolina A&T State University, and the 2014–15 president is studying information systems at Coastal Carolina University. Other examples of success by C.A.S.H. alumni abound.

We talked earlier about "busy." But there is another word that describes this exuberant and ambitious chapter.

"That one word is 'transformational,' because members say they have witnessed several students who join unwillingly or are extremely reserved and non-communicative," says Thomas. "The transformation occurs when they realize the value of the opportunity they have been given and they start to blossom and seek leadership roles and join competition teams and then become excited about being a part of NSBE Jr."

What's ahead for the Chapter of the Year?

"We just have to keep pushing our chapter to greater heights," says Berry.

There's no doubt that C.A.S.H. will cash in. ■



C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. officers (left to right): (seated) Taylor Jackson, Jocelyn Berry, Samirah Brown and Chapter President Dorien Minor; (standing) Devian Jones, Jay Tyler, Malcolm Brown and Kenadi Wilkerson



***"We have come a long way from the beginning to where we are now, and I believe we can go much further."***

— Jocelyn Berry, C.A.S.H.  
NSBE Jr.

*Cindy Atoji is a Boston-based blogger and editor who specializes in diversity issues and technology writing.*

# News Story

## Exploring STEM dreams at the SMART building



Colorful foam, play dough, and breadboards with absolutely no gluten involved are just a few tools a local nonprofit is using to help kids understand Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in a fun and accessible way.

On November 13, the local chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr. held their most recent STEM exposure meeting at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM) campus.

The chapter, Creative and Striving Hard to Succeed (CASH), uses the Grand Hall and the Electrical Engineering Lab in the Southern Maryland Autonomous Research and Technology (SMART) building. The meetings typically start with an icebreaker activity.

“The kids come from Charles, Calvert, St. Mary’s, and Prince George’s counties so we try to get them engaged so they’ll get to know each other,” said LEAP Forward President and CASH chapter founder and advisor Rhonda Thomas.

The most recent meeting summarized the NSBE Jr. regional conference, which featured a math competition, rocket workshop, and racecar program. The team came in second in the math competition. The kids that went shared pictures and stories with the group.



After the meetings come the activities. Typically, the group splits up according to grade. This time, there was a special activity just for the girls, hosted by STEAM Forward! Academy.

“We often try to partner with organizations, specifically those that target underserved or underrepresented communities, as a way to showcase and bring representation to this field that they may often not see,” said Dr. Jeanita Pritchett, Founder and Facilitator of STEAM Forward.

The first activity featured mechanical engineering, demonstrated an engineer's design process, and taught topics including centrifugal force, and kinetic and stored energy. Teams worked together to build roller coasters out of tubes, with marbles as their carts. The girls watched their "carts" drop to the ground before adjusting the track to achieve the perfect combination of angles, loops, and speed.

The second activity featured a combination of chemical engineering and art. Two solutions combine to make polyurethane foam, a material found in everything from seat cushions to shoe soles. The girls picked a color to dye their foam, and acted as the catalyst to create big mounds of foam that eventually became solid.

Dr. Pritchett said art often gets integrated into the activities they do, because she's an artist in addition to a chemist.

"I'm actually a second generation scientist. Both of my parents were nuclear engineers, and that is quite the anomaly for people that look like me, quite honestly. Most people don't really know a black scientist, so to have two that you grew up with is quite out of the norm," Dr. Pritchett said. "For me, I wanted to create a place where people feel that they belong in science, technology, engineering, and math, but also combine the creative side of it."

Dr. Pritchett said she also integrates chemistry, biology, mathematics, and technology to expose students to a broad array of different activities. Her organization also does professional development. It helps students write resumes and prepare college essays, and gives them the tools they need to succeed.

"It was programs like this that got me excited about it, and we now really just want to lift as we climb in our careers," Dr. Pritchett said. "We really want to tap into the students that may think that this isn't for them, so we can show them that they really do belong in STEM."

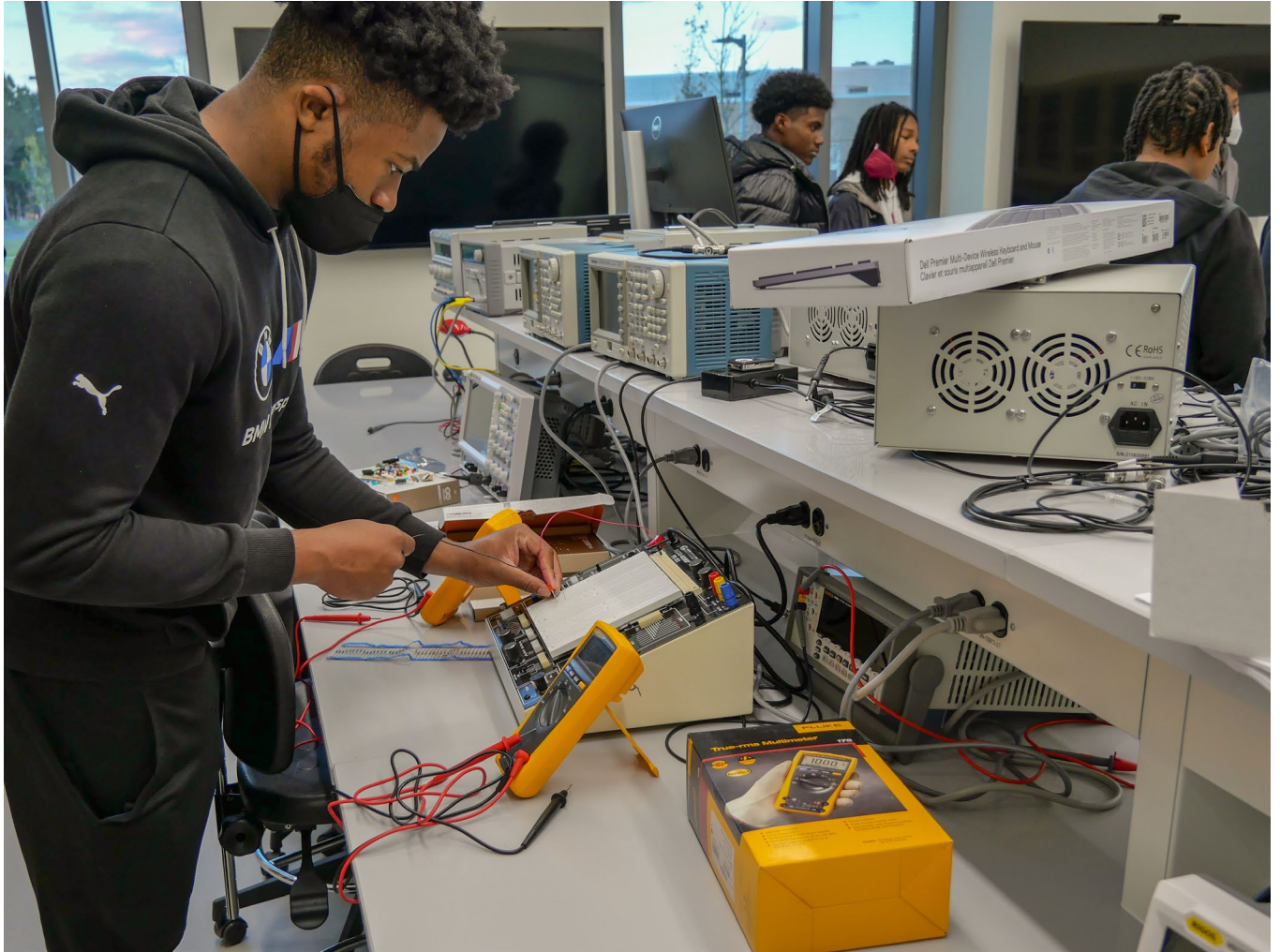
For more information about how to partner or work with STEAM Forward, [click here](#).

On the other side of the STEAM door, the younger boys were learning the basics of circuitry... with play dough. The activity kit "Squishy Circuits" teaches kids what the pieces of a circuit are. The play dough acts as a conductor to illuminate an LED light.

"It's pretty good for elementary students. They learn about open circuits and closed circuits and what a conductor does and how to light the LED with the battery as the energy source. Pretty basic, but you get the concept. You saw how much fun they were having," Thomas said.

The older boys were working on a less malleable way to make circuits, a breadboard. The instructor, USMSM Lab Manager Bill Malatesta, talked through basic electrical concepts like voltage, current, resistance, and switches. He used water pressure, water flow, and spigot analogies to help the students understand, and quizzed them along the way to ensure they were grasping the lesson. He then connected the concepts to common electrical components including voltage sources, current, resistors, and diodes.





“We had the students measure resistors with a multimeter and build a simple LED circuit on the breadboards. As we built the circuit I intentionally made some "mistakes" to demonstrate the effect that higher and lower resistance had on the intensity of light from the LEDs,” Malatesta said. “All-in-all, they seemed to be engaged and they demonstrated that they are a smart, capable group. I'm excited to see how much we can learn together throughout the course of these meetings.”

Starting next month, the older girls will join the older boys to work on an electrical engineering project with Dr. Danilo Romero, a Senior Lecturer in the UMD Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and the Director of the Electrical Engineering Program at USMSM.

“So we’ll basically go over some basic microelectronics. Learning how to rig the circuit, put that on a breadboard, do some measurements,” Dr. Romero said. “I’ll ask them to build a windmill that will convert wind power to electricity. There will be electronics there, obviously, but there will also be 3D printing.”

In addition to STEM activities and projects, chapter founder Rhonda Thomas connects her NSBE Jr. CASH students with internships, college tours, scholarships, and unique opportunities.



“Past and current members of our CASH NSBE Jr. chapter are participating in the flight training program sponsored by Reach Back and Lift 1 - Mr. Tommy Herndon and Mr. William Hall III,” Thomas said. “Our future pilots are Anthony Grady, Chase Hinton, Gavin Goldring, Gregory White, Joseph Parran III, Tori Jackson and Tyler Bailey.”

It all started with a tour of the Navy base and the SMART Building in August.

“You know Mr. Herndon and when we came over for the tour he just kind of introduced it to us,” Thomas said. “Even though it’s supposed to be ground training, he has them flying over there, so it’s amazing. So we took advantage of every opportunity when we came for the tour. I think everybody we talked to we’re now partnering with. So it’s been good.”

The CASH NSBE Jr. chapter is going to celebrate their ten year anniversary in January. Thomas said she was motivated to start it when she heard some alarming statistics at a national conference.

“They were doing statistics on African American kids in STEM, and their math proficiency, and their science proficiency, and it wasn’t good. And the president of the national organization at that time said we have to go back and get our kids,” Thomas said. “So we got the chapter started and they’ve done extraordinary work. We’ve won so many awards at the national conferences and different competitions and it’s been good. It’s been good.”

Thomas will continue to hold the CASH NSBE Jr. STEM exposure meetings. Anyone is welcome.

“At the end of the day, we don’t care if they want to be engineers or not, we want to have kids who understand what engineering is, what STEM is,” Thomas said. “After we expose them and they decide that it’s not for them, then it’s not for them, but they are knowledgeable..”

The next meeting will be on December 11 at the SMART Building.

“It all started with the [August] tour that the Patuxent Partnership planned for our group, and they continue to support us,” Thomas said. “Without the tour, we wouldn't have known a STEM paradise such as the SMART building existed. We are grateful to God that our inquiry to use the facility was met with a resounding yes from Matt Scassero, Director of Operations and Outreach at the MATRIX Lab.”

Thomas also noted that the program's success has been enabled by the support of the parents, competition team coaches, and a cadre of chapter advisors and volunteers.

For more information on the group or to find out how to join, [click here](#) or email Rhonda Thomas or Tonya Wilkerson at [cash\\_nsbejr@yahoo.com](mailto:cash_nsbejr@yahoo.com).

Published November 28, 2022

The Calvert Recorder ■ Friday, January 5, 2018

## Young engineers take home honors at conference

Calvert's junior chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, Creative and Striving Hard to Succeed, assembled 42 students, parents and chaperones to journey to the NSBE Fall Regional Conference in Greensboro, N.C., Nov. 10 and 11 to "Ignite, Imagine and Innovate."

CASH is a part of NSBE Region two that spans from the Washington, D.C. area to the Carolinas. Amidst workshops, career and college fairs, and hands-on activities, competitions were held against other NSBE junior chapters in the geographical region as students displayed their interest for STEM.

During competitions the chapter's math and Ten80 radio controlled teams continued their winning ways. CASH middle school Math Counts team, Math "PI" Rates and the high school Try Math A Lon team, Absolute Values both secured second place wins.

The National Ten80 Racing Challenge program conducted a regional invitational at the conference. Competing for their third consecutive year, the Calvert Cruisers dominated the racing event and secured first place wins for Overall Performance and for the Racing Challenge. The team also captured second place for their Enterprise Presentation.

Making their debut, the Ten80 middle school team, Calvert Cruisers Next Generation performed extremely well. The team secured first place wins for Enterprise Presentation and Graphic Design. Several elementary students also received certificates for completing STEM hands-on activities at the Kid Zone.

During the journey, CASH members also explored the International Civil Rights Museum which highlights the valiant efforts of the Greensboro Four who were North Carolina A&T college students who played a pivotal role in integrating the "whites only" lunch counters at Woolworth's in the 1960 by conducting sit-ins. The icons included Ezell Blair Jr., Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil and David Richmond. The museum housed within the original Woolworth's store boasts many tributes to the courageous men and

displays the actual lunch counters. CASH students also visited the Greensboro Four monument erected in their honor on the campus of NCA&T.

Led by Rhonda Thomas, LEAP Forward president, Tonya and Kevin Wilkerson, NSBE Jr. advisors, and team coaches Kristen Taylor, Georgianna Wright and Debra Plater, the competition teams performed very well and improved upon past successes.

A good showing by the Math Counts team, allowed the Math "PI" Rates to finish second during competitions. Team members included Tori Jackson, Kevin Wilkerson Jr. and Micah Taylor.

The Try-Math-A-Lon high school math team, the Absolute Values completed individual and group math exams and advanced to the Quiz Bowl. Absolute Values Team members included Tiffany Jackson, Taylor Jackson, Samirah Brown, Malcolm Brown and Dorian Minor.

High school team members attending the regional conference included Kenadi Wilkerson, program manager; Alexis Hill, marketing lead; Malcolm Brown, driver lead; Dorian Minor, pit crew lead; and team members: Justin Holland, Tia Jackson, Grantley Bourne, Kourtney Goldring, Joshua Stubbs, Jocelyn Berry, LaVonne Alston and Kylese Cumbs. Middle school team members attending the regional conference included Kevin Wilkerson Jr., program manager; marketing leads Paige Plater and Tori Jackson, driver lead Joseph Parran III, pit crew Gavin Goldring; data driven design lead, Micah Taylor and team members Jeremiah Alston and Jonathan Parran.

Kid Zone participants included Jeremiah Alston, Angelique Wright, Quincy Quattlebaum, and Jonathan Parran.

"It was a great conference for all region two members and it allowed me the opportunity to be exposed to new things," said Alexis Hill, Calvert Cruisers marketing lead in a press release.

Participation in the Fall Regional prepared NSBE Jr. CASH for future competitions planned for March 2018 in Pittsburgh, Pa., where all six regions will gather for the



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Calvert's junior chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers traveled to North Carolina in November.



Calvert's junior chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers traveled to North Carolina in November

National Conference.

Coming off 2017 Chapter of the Year honors earlier this year in Kansas City, the chapter's officers grace the cover of the 2017 NSBE Summer Bridge Magazine.

CASH NSBE Jr. would

like to thank sponsors U.S. Air Force, Walmart, Dominion Foundation, Omega Pi Omega Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Calvert County members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Sewell Funeral Home,

SMECO, KeBak, Calvert County Baptist Church, LEAP Forward Inc., ParkerSimms Management Solutions, Calvert County Board of Commissioners and NSBE Headquarters.

The chapter is still

recruiting members for its 2017-18 season and other competition teams. Membership is open to all kindergarten to 12th grades students. Contact C.A.S.H. NSBE Jr. Chapter at [cash\\_nsbejr@yahoo.com](mailto:cash_nsbejr@yahoo.com).

### Calendar of events

A LOOK AT THE WEEK AHEAD

Send calendar events (at least two weeks in advance, if possible) to P.O. Box 485, Prince Frederick, Md. 20678. Email items to [calcommunity@somd-news.com](mailto:calcommunity@somd-news.com). Include a contact phone number or email on all submissions.

#### Friday, Jan. 5

**American Legion Stallings-Williams Post 206** will hold a roast beef tenderloin dinner from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at the post in Chesapeake Beach. The cost is \$12. For more information, call 410-257-9878.

**SMILE Ecumenical Ministries Inc.** will host Senior Friday on Friday, Jan. 5, in Lusby. On Fridays, all seniors aged 55 or older, with proof of age, will receive 50 percent off clothing for the person named on the discount card. For more information, go to [www.smileinc.org](http://www.smileinc.org).

**The St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Co. 7 Alarmers** will host bingo at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5. Doors open at 6 p.m., and early bird games start at 7 p.m. Games will feature 50/50 and pull tabs. Refreshments will be for sale by the auxiliary. For more information, call 410-326-4435.

**The Calvert Animal Welfare League** will host an indoor yard

sale and thrift shop from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at 1040 Prince Frederick Blvd., Prince Frederick. For more information, contact Joanne or Janette at 410-535-9300.

**American Legion Post 238** will hold a seafood dinner from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at 6265 Brandywine Road in Hughesville. The cost is \$7 to \$13. For more information, call 301-274-3522.

#### Saturday, Jan. 6

**Mt. Harmony-Lower Marlboro-UMC** will hold a community breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at 155 E. Mt. Harmony Road in Owings. The cost is \$9 for adults, \$6 for children 7-12 and free for children

under 7. Carryout is available. For more information, call 410-257-2761.

**Smithville United Methodist Church** will hold a breakfast from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at 3005 Ferry Landing Road in Dunkirk. For more information, call 410-257-3160.

**Overeaters Anonymous**, a food addiction support group, will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, in the Middleham Chapel, H.G. Trueman Road, Lusby. For more information, call Joyce at 301-866-1484.

**The Calvert Animal Welfare League** will host an indoor yard sale and thrift shop from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at 1040 Prince Frederick Blvd., Prince Frederick. For more information, contact Joanne or

Janette at 410-535-9300.

#### Sunday, Jan. 7

**The Calvert Animal Welfare League** will host an indoor yard sale and thrift shop from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at 1040 Prince Frederick Blvd., Prince Frederick. For more information, contact Joanne or Janette at 410-535-9300.

#### Monday, Jan. 8

**Sierra Risk** will hold a presentation on risk and reality of fracked gas infrastructure in Southern Maryland from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at

See **CALENDAR** Page B2

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FEATURED

## LEAP Forward organization presented prestigious award from comptroller

By ANDREW CEPHAS [acephas@somdnews.com](mailto:acephas@somdnews.com) Feb 22, 2018



Rhonda Thomas, founder of Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, poses for a photo with Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot (D) after being honored with the William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award on Wednesday.  
STAFF PHOTO BY ANDREW CEPHAS

Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot (D) visited the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center on Wednesday to present nonprofit organization LEAP Forward with the prestigious William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award.

Unofficially organized in 1998, Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward is an organization that works to provide educational and financial assistance to economically disadvantaged youth. Rhonda Thomas, founder of the organization, was present at the community center to accept the award on behalf of the organization.

Calvert County Board of Education member Pamela Cousins served as master of ceremonies during the program. She referred to Thomas as a Renaissance woman and noted how many she has helped in Calvert County.

"We're here to honor Rhonda but there are a lot of other people that I think Rhonda represents in our society right now. Rhonda has had a positive impact upon countless lives in Calvert County and the ripple effect can be felt across the state and region. You, Rhonda, are an inspiration for all of us," Franchot said.

Doris Cammack-Spencer, co-founder of Concerned Black Women of Calvert County, said she was thrilled to participate in honoring Thomas with the William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award.

"The devotion and commitment to our youth from elementary to college is demonstrated in numerous services and programs Rhonda offers. I often say to her I don't know when she sleeps. Rhonda founded LEAP Forward and truly she leaps," Cammack-Spencer said, indicating the organization focuses on the skills needed to succeed in science, technology, engineering and math fields.

Some of the programs and services offered by LEAP Forward are family-sponsored scholarships, college tours, internships and academic enrichment programs.

Thomas thanked everyone for coming to the program and credited the organization's success to her strong support system.

# NSBE Professionals IMPACT Scholarship

[www.nsbe.org](http://www.nsbe.org)

## NSBE Professionals IMPACT Scholarship

Adapted from [Who was "Big Ed" Barnette \(1949 - 1991\)?](#) by George Smith

Edward E. Barnette Jr. was an ambitious leader, who set high goals for his life, and pursued them with uncommon passion and energy. Ed chose to study Industrial Engineering at Purdue University during a time when 8 of 10 black freshmen dropped out every year. As an incoming senior, he and other black seniors felt a responsibility to help underclassman. In 1971, Ed went to Arthur J. Bond, an Electrical Engineering PhD candidate, and asked for help. Art wrote a Constitution and agreed to serve as the Faculty Advisor. Then Edward E. Barnette, Jr. moved forward and became the founding President of Purdue's Black Society of Engineers. Among those Ed was determined to help, were six black freshmen, later to be known as NSBE's own Chicago 6.

As a professional, Ed continued to serve, support, and embody NSBE's mission. Ed was a successful senior corporate executive with the Digital Equipment Corporation, and at the same time, always mindful of his responsibility to inspire, help, and mentor the younger black engineers. For his accomplishments, Edward Barnette was declared one of the "Outstanding Young Men in America". The Purdue

University NSBE Chapter recognized his priceless contributions to our cause by establishing an annual scholarship in his name. Fittingly, Mr. Barnette was NSBE's first recipient of the Golden Torch Award for outstanding academic, industry, and community achievements. "Big Ed," was a beloved husband, father, fraternity brother, and friend to many, many people. He personified "positive impact" for our Society and his early vision enabled us to see a brighter day for our people.

The Professionals Scholarship Program is a grass roots program that provides scholarships to all demographics of the society, from pre-college to professional. A key feature of the scholarship program is that nominations come from our Professionals Chapters. Chapter leaders, supported by their members, nominate candidates from within their local NSBE community, from pre-college to professional, that embodied the NSBE mission through their impact to the community they serve.

In its inauguration, the scholarship committee named The Professionals Scholarship Program the Edward E. Barnette Jr. Community Impact Scholarship Program. Please take a moment to learn about [Edward E. Barnette](#), an essential forefather to the Founders and the first NSBE Professional.

## **Grassroots Engagement**

We have the power to make a real and continual impact in many ways. When we align our finances with the outcomes we desire, with our beliefs, with the mission, results are automatic and immediate. In 2016-2017 we secured \$25,000 dollars for five, \$5k scholarships. With nearly half of all individual donations ranging from just five dollars to one thousand dollars, the NSBE Professionals succeed in this amazing inaugural effort.

Our first year of the scholarship program was a true success! This success would not have been possible without our founder's support (Tony Harris, Brian Harris, Ed Coleman, and George Smith), our Professional Chapters (Leaders & Members), and our many donors

from around the country. We are very thankful to founder Tony Harris and past National Chair (and now UC Davis Chancellor) Dr. Gary may for their five thousand dollar contributions.

## **Local Impact**

We impacted NSBE members ranging from seasoned professionals to aspiring high school students. Our winners included Dia Maria Brown a graduating high school, and an aspiring Environmental Engineer, attending University of Vermont this fall. Austin Christopher, also a graduating high school senior, and aspiring Civil Engineer attending UT Austin or Rose Hulman. Rachel Corine Judge a Chemical Engineering senior, attending Virginia Commonwealth University, an active campus leader, and 2016-2017 NSBE Chapter President. Kayla Holston a senior Biomedical Engineering student at the University of Virginia, serving in 2016-17 as Vice President of her chapter, also active in her campus community. Finally, Deborah Ann Dilworth, a Professional member seeking her Masters in Civil Engineering, a 2016 Regional and Chapter Member of the Year.

These devoted members are active, excelling academically, succeeding professional, and impacting the community. They embody mission, they embody the purpose of the Edward E. Barnett Jr. Impact Scholarship –the IMPACT Scholarship.

## **Scholarship Goals**

To recognize outstanding contributions to the community along the length of the entire STEM pipeline and thus throughout our membership. The scholarship supports the continued educational objectives within the following demographic areas:

- High School Seniors (PCI/NSBE Jr.)
- Collegiate Students (min. two semesters from graduation)
- Non-traditional (Professional Affiliate Members, non-Bachelors holding)



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[http://www.somdnews.com/recorder/community/features/junior-engineers-win-chapter-of-the-year-award/article\\_757e269c-7e8b-57e9-9580-ddffca9b0cdc.html](http://www.somdnews.com/recorder/community/features/junior-engineers-win-chapter-of-the-year-award/article_757e269c-7e8b-57e9-9580-ddffca9b0cdc.html)

FEATURED

## Junior engineers win Chapter of the year Award

Apr 28, 2017



Members of Calvert's junior chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers won the society's Pre-College Initiative Chapter of the Year Award at the society's national conference recently.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Calvert's junior chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), known as Creative and Striving Hard to Succeed (CASH) went to the 2017 NSBE Annual Conference in Kansas City, Mo., and walked away with the society's Pre-College Initiative Chapter of the Year Award.

Additionally, the chapter's Calvert Cruisers (the racing car team) continued its winning ways, with a second-place finish in the Ten80 (racing) Enterprise presentation. The chapter competed and bested some of the most stellar talent in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) from across the country and internationally, according to a press release.

Coming off last year's highly successful conference in Boston, Mass., where the Cruisers placed second overall in the national racing competition, the chapter assembled another competitive team of 21 students, who were accompanied by many parents and chaperones for a total of 35 attendees, the release stated.

Led by Rhonda Thomas, LEAP Forward president, Tonya and Kevin Wilkerson, NSBE Jr. advisors, the chapter teams not only competed in math and STEM events, but attended many technical workshops on leadership, academic achievement and cultural responsibility.

"While we were a little nervous about how we would match last year's success, where we brought home three trophies and advanced to the national racing car competition, we had worked hard in the off-season and felt quite prepared," Thomas said in a press release.

"Even with six students going into college, which really tested our Ten80 team, our chapter would again have to raise its performance."

"I think our teams excelled tremendously, particularly competing in the Try-Math-a-Lon and Ten80 competitions," said Dorien Minor, chapter president, in a press release. "And, I really enjoyed meeting the different professionals and college representatives, along with attending many different sessions and workshops."

Minor and other team members heard keynote addresses from high-profile, technology savvy organizations like the Department of Defense, United Technologies, Chevron and Northrop Grumman. At a pre-college students' session in the conference's Innovation Lab, they enjoyed interactive hands-on activities featuring the latest in breakthrough technologies. Other team members brushed up on history of American technology as they explored a mobile African-American traveling trunk of exhibits which featured over 100 artifacts and displays on African-American inventors and inventions, according to a press release.

"Prior to the convention, the middle school Math Counts team created a math video entitled 'Pokémon Equalities' that garnered online votes," Thomas said in the release. During competition, a good showing by the Math Counts team, the Math "PI"- Rates finished sixth in a field of 10 national teams. Team members included Tori Jackson, William Patton, Gavin Gross and Micah Taylor and Coaches Kristen Taylor and Ronald Clark.

The Try-Math-A-Lon (TMAL) high school math team, the Absolute Values endured stiff competition and advanced to the Quiz Bowl but did not place in the top three. Absolute Values Team members included Tiffany Jackson, Taylor Jackson, Samirah Brown, Malcolm Brown and Dorien Minor.

All of these many NSBE competitions and events had their beginning in 1975. So, this year the society commemorated its founding by creating the inaugural Founder Edward Barnette Jr. Community Impact Scholarship. It was over 42 years ago that Barnette became one of the original founders of NSBE at Purdue University. Chapter member Dia Brown of Huntingtown High School was one of five NSBE awardees of this prestigious, first-ever award, receiving a \$5,000 scholarship. Brown also received a \$750 NSBE Region 2 Direct Scholarship., a press release stated.

The Calvert Cruisers (racing team), received an invitation to the Ten80 Education National Racing competition at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. The team's 2016 performance is highlighted in the Winter 2017 NSBE Bridge Magazine. Team members attending the convention included Kenadi Wilkerson, program manager; Alexis Hill, marketing lead; Devian Jones, driver lead; Malcolm Brown, pit crew lead; and team members Brandon Hooker, Jay Tyler, Alex Fletcher, Emanuel Grimes, Dorien Minor, Dia Brown, Kayla Patton, Gavin Gross, and Joshua Stubbs.

The convention culminated with a closing banquet for all the pre-college initiative students and presentation of awards. The CASH chapter received the Pre-College Initiative Chapter of the Year Award, which is awarded to the top performing group among the other nationally-recognized NSBE PCI chapters.

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[http://www.somdnews.com/recorder/community/features/victorious-in-boston/article\\_0cee77cc-8a2d-521a-b7e0-4a3697f631b0.html](http://www.somdnews.com/recorder/community/features/victorious-in-boston/article_0cee77cc-8a2d-521a-b7e0-4a3697f631b0.html)

FEATURED

## Victorious in Boston

Apr 22, 2016



Members of the Calvert Cruiser Racing Car Team work on their car. From left: Jay Tyler, DeVian Jones and Bra  
SUBMITTED PHOTO

A busload of aspiring engineers, scientists and mathematicians spent their spring break working hard at a competition in Boston. Members of Creative And Striving Hard's (CASH) National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr. Chapter members of Calvert County attended the 43rd annual NSBE Convention in Boston last month.

Led by Rhonda Thomas, LEAP Forward president, and Tonya Wilkerson, NSBE Jr. advisor, a host of chaperones and the CASH NSBE Jr. Chapter leadership, this team competed and placed highly against other student teams, which assembled from across the nation.

CASH's Try-Math-A-Lon (TMAL) Teams began a series of practices and qualifying rounds. TMAL is a tutoring program meant to foster good study habits and help students prepare for standardized test exams such as the ACT and SAT, while also promoting competition and good sportsmanship, a press release states. While designed to have fun and learn, ultimately it's about solving challenging STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) problems and injecting innovative ideas into the equations.

There were two TMAL teams: Absolute Value and Divide and Conquer. The Absolute Values team finished sixth out of 23 teams. The middle school Math Pi-rates team advanced to the third round, the release states.

Absolute Value team members included Tiffany Jackson, Taylor Jackson, Samirah Brown, Melvin Brown and Dorien Minor. Divide and Conquer team members included Dia Brown, Wilbur Robinson, Cedric Fowler, Dana Wiggins and Jerrell Jones. Math Pi-rates team members included Micah Taylor, Tia Jackson, Kensley Benjamin and Nysun Andre.

The Ten80 Education Racing Challenge team, the Calvert Cruisers, won three convention trophies and finished second overall. In the racing challenge, the finals culminate a yearlong program where student-teams work together on tasks much like how professional race car teams function in the run-up to a race, according to the release.

The presentation team created a business plan on PowerPoint, which they presented in front of two judges to explain all aspects of the team, including information about how and why the team was formed, who is on the team, what each team member's responsibilities are, budget information, team sponsors, prospects for the future and other background data, the release states.

The presentation team members included: Kenadi Wilkerson, Alexis Hill, Isaiah Lewis, James Cogborn and Malcolm Brown.

The Calvert Cruisers also competed in three races and were judged on an engineering data-driven design project.

After the successful results in Boston, the Cruisers have received an invitation to the Ten 80 Education National Racing competition at the Miami-Homestead Speedway in Florida in May. Fewer than a quarter of all the racing teams are invited to national finals.

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[http://www.somdnews.com/recorder/community/club\\_news/youth-compete-in-regional-engineer-competition/article\\_5d6a35fc-6708-516a-9dfe-c59820c764e4.html](http://www.somdnews.com/recorder/community/club_news/youth-compete-in-regional-engineer-competition/article_5d6a35fc-6708-516a-9dfe-c59820c764e4.html)

## Youth compete in regional engineer competition

Dec 11, 2015

Where can 13 of our most promising youth drive race cars, speed to a finish line, and then spin-out of control without getting a ticket? The answer is not many places in Maryland, unless you're a Calvert Cruisers and competing in the National Society of Black Engineers, Region 2 Fall Regional Conference in Bethesda, held on Saturday, Nov. 7. The Calvert Cruisers is a group of motivated students from the Creative and Striving Hard to Succeed (CASH) arm of the National Society of Black Engineers Jr. Chapter, sponsored annually by LEAP Forward, Inc., Prince Frederick.

The regional event, which was attended by teams from different states, organizations, and disciplines, used the theme: Engineering, a cultural change. The theme invokes developing culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact their communities.

The Cruisers, aka "Cruisin for a Bruisin," who have a few aspiring engineers themselves, represented the communities of Calvert and St. Mary's exceptionally-well and were formidable competitors in the Ten80 Student Racing Competition Education. Ten80 competitions are designed to develop and deliver K-12 STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) including STEAMStart, Student Racing, Rover & Innovation Challenges, to help students learn and thrive in an ever-increasing STEM society. In a 10-minute, against-the-clock competition, on an oval speedway in Bethesda's North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center ballroom, the Cruisers' remotely-controlled



model race cars and sped fearlessly against other teams through the maze tracking. Over the 10 minute period, the team solved mechanical failures, avoided crashes, and accelerated through the trying maze to bring home a second place finish.

LEAP Forward, Inc., President, Rhonda Thomas, who sponsored the Cruisers, was quite impressed by their performance. She said, "In our very first regional conference competition our teams (Calvert Cruisers, Try- Math-A-Lon, MATHCOUNTS, and Invention Challenge team) were awesome! Making a second place finish in the 10-minute racing competition was tremendous teamwork."

Flying high and literally flying the Calvert County flag as the team's emblem, the Cruisers also reached a third placed finish in the Endurance race. They finished a remarkable second in the overall Ten80 High School Team competitions. Team members include Jocelyn Berry from St. Mary's Ryken High, Malcolm Brown from Huntingtown High, Melvin Davis Calvert High, Destiny Dillion Calvert High, Devon Dorsey from Huntingtown High, Alexis Hill from Huntingtown High, Brandon Hooker from Calvert High, Braxton Jones from Huntingtown High, Devian Jones from Calvert High, Jerrell Jones from Northern High, Dorien Minor from Calvert High, Jay Tyler from Calvert High, and Kenadi Wilkerson from Huntingtown High.

Not to be outdone by the senior team of Cruisers, according to CASH Advisor and math team coordinator, Tonya Wilkerson: the ninth and tenth grade, Try-Math-A-Lon team, aka "Absolute Value", finished in first place. Try-Math-A-Lon is a tutoring program meant to foster good study habits and help students prepare for standardized test exams such as the ACT and SAT, while also promoting competition and good sportsmanship. Wilkerson noted that these young people are making believers everyday- that indeed they can do and succeed at Math. Try-Math-A-Lon Team members included Samirah Brown from Northern High, Melvin Davis from Calvert High, Taylor Jackson from Northern High, Tiffany Jackson from Northern High, and Dorien Minor from Calvert High.

Wilkerson added, our middle school team of CASH, competed in the challenging MATHCOUNTS competition and finished in a respectable third place. MATHCOUNTS is a national middle school coaching and competitive mathematics program that promotes mathematics achievement through a series of fun and engaging "bee" style contests. She

further noted that several CASH NSBE Jr. members also won in the Invention Challenge, where kids had to conceive original inventions to place. MATHCOUNTS team members included: Nyson Andre from Calvert Middle, Kensley Benjamin from Calvert Middle, Taylor Gibson from Southern Middle, Tia Jackson from Northern Middle, Joshua Stubbs from Southern Middle, and Micah Taylor from Calvert Middle.

These competitions reinforce classroom learning, Wilkerson said, and they often offer fun and practical applications of STEM-related challenges. She noted that all the young people were constantly interacting with engineers and professionals from a wide cross-section of disciplines. For example, the U.S. Army through a long-standing partnership and conference support shared its STEM educational and career opportunities portfolio.

Our Ten80 team is grateful for the sponsorship provided by Waldorf's Best Buy and the additional support provided by the Dominion and Walmart Foundations which allowed another 30 students to attend the regionals, according to Thomas. Overall this Calvert-based community effort supports grades K-12 and the NSBE Jr. Chapter, which Hooked on Nero Math Tutoring Company helped co-found in 2013, is run by elected student-officers. Chapter membership is open to all and more information is available at its Facebook site, CASH, NSBE Jr. of Calvert County. Thomas closed with: "everyone will need the ability to think critically and apply the lessons that STEM teaches; we need to prepare our kids."

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Date: January 28, 2013**

**Contact: Rhonda Thomas**  
**President & Founder**  
**301.509.3872**

**LEAP Forward and Hooked On Nero  
join forces to establish local  
National Society of Black Engineers Jr. Chapter in Calvert**

**On January 26<sup>th</sup>, nine charter members of the National Society of Black Engineers Jr. (NSBE Jr.) met at Ledo's Pizza in Prince Frederick, MD to establish a new local chapter.**

**The National Society of Black Engineers is a student operated organization that provides a pre-college initiative for youth to develop and master their science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) fields. The organization's mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professional and positively impact the community. World headquarters is located in Alexandria, VA and chapters exist nationally as well as internationally.**

**Students who participate in the newly formed chapter will be able to benefit from engineering competitions such as Try-Math-A-Lon, academic enrichment programs including mentoring and tutoring, camps and conferences such as the national conference to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana in March and free magazine subscription to the NSBE Bridge.**

**This new NSBE Jr. chapter was named by the charter members and will be called CASH (Creative And Striving Hard) to Succeed. Shanell Nero who is an electrical engineering graduate of Morgan State University and is the CEO of Hooked On Nero, a math tutorial company, will spearhead efforts with Rhonda Thomas. Rhonda Thomas and advisor Wilson Ennis Jr., are electrical engineering graduates of Tennessee State University and Board Members of LEAP Forward, a local nonprofit that provides educational services to minority youth. Numerous other minority engineering professionals who have roots in Calvert County are also on tap and eager to participate.**

**Nero and Thomas feel that this targeted organization will provide needed inspiration, encouragement, and pride to our youth! Membership is still open and all students are encouraged to join as they will definitely benefit just from the exposure to new and different opportunities. The group's next meeting will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup>. For additional information please contact Rhonda at 301.509.3872 or email her at [leapforwardinc@yahoo.com](mailto:leapforwardinc@yahoo.com).**

**Charter members for CASH include the following students: President, Keisha, a Senior at Calvert High; Vice President, Keontae, a Senior at Calvert High, Treasurer, Dorien, Financial Secretary, Imani, and Secretary, Joey. Other charter members include Destiny, Jocelyn, Kiana, Jahmaya, Kayla, Kyra, Zachary, Nicholas, and Jared.**

Cincinnati Service Center  
CINCINNATI OH 45999-0038

In reply refer to: 0255879370  
Feb. 15, 2023 LTR 4168C 0  
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BODC: TE

LAUNCHING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAMS FORWARD INC  
PO BOX 373  
PRNC FREDERCK MD 20678

Employer ID number: 52-2169397  
Form 990 required: Yes

Dear Taxpayer:

We're responding to your request dated Feb. 08, 2023, about your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in July, 2001, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(03).

We also show you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If you're required to file a return, you must file one of the following by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of your annual accounting period:

- Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990-EZ
- Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation

According to IRC Section 6033(j), if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for 3 consecutive years, we'll revoke your tax-exempt status on the due date of the 3rd required return or notice.

You can get IRS forms or publications you need from our website at [www.irs.gov/forms-pubs](http://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs) or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.,

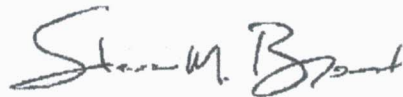
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LAUNCHING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAMS FORWARD INC  
PO BOX 373  
PRNC FREDERCK MD 20678

local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific time).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



Steve M. Brown, Operations Manager  
Operations 3-CIN

# Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

**Give Form to the  
requester. Do not  
send to the IRS.**

<b>Print or type See Specific Instructions on page 2.</b>	1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank. <b>Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward Inc (LEAP Forward, Inc.)</b>		
	2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above		
	3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification; check only one of the following seven boxes: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC <input type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=partnership) ▶ _____ <b>Note.</b> For a single-member LLC that is disregarded, do not check LLC; check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (see instructions) ▶ <b>NonProfit</b>		4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3): Exempt payee code (if any) _____ Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____ <small>(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)</small>
	5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) <b>P.O. Box 373</b>		Requester's name and address (optional)
	6 City, state, and ZIP code <b>Prince Frederick, MD 20678</b>		
	7 List account number(s) here (optional)		

## Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the Part I instructions on page 3. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN* on page 3.

**Note.** If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1 and the chart on page 4 for guidelines on whose number to enter.

<b>Social security number</b>	
[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] - [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] - [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	
<b>OR</b>	
<b>Employer identification number</b>	
5 2 - 2 1 6 9 3 9 7	

## Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

**Certification instructions.** You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions on page 3.

<b>Sign Here</b>	Signature of U.S. person ▶	Date ▶ March 17, 2023
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## General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

**Future developments.** Information about developments affecting Form W-9 (such as legislation enacted after we release it) is at [www.irs.gov/fw9](http://www.irs.gov/fw9).

### Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Form 1099-INT (interest earned or paid)
- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
- Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
- Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
- Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
- Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)

- Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
- Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
- Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.

*If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See What is backup withholding? on page 2.*

By signing the filled-out form, you:

1. Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued),
2. Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or
3. Claim exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee. If applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income, and
4. Certify that FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that you are exempt from the FATCA reporting, is correct. See *What is FATCA reporting?* on page 2 for further information.