

Belinda Freeman, an EST scholarship recipient who graduated in 2019 from Clark-Atlanta University and was offered a full-time position at Google.



Annual Appeal

Your Gift Makes
a Difference



Dear family, friends, and EST supporters:

What a difference opportunity makes! Remarkably, despite many of this year's tour participants being in the foster care system, they are doing well in school, will graduate, and go to college. We are also proud to share with you the fact that one of our students, Elijah Black who is featured in this year's annual newsletter, will receive a full-ride scholarship. The fact that he has chosen to attend an HBCU, after our donors sponsored him to go on the tour, of course, warms our hearts. As everyone knows, we cannot work in this space without the support of the community. Therefore, we invite everyone to help us by creating fundraising pages to share with their friends and family. Just give us a call to find out how.

Warmly,

THE EST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

90%

of EST scholarship recipients live in foster care or single-parent households.

80%

of EST participants enroll in a Historically Black College or University.

5,100

students have participated in our program.

50%

of tour scholarships went to students living in households of \$35,000 or less.



Visit our donor page to set up monthly contributions:

blackcollegetours.org/registration/donate

STUDENT PROFILE

Angelo Hopson

Angelo thanks EST's donors for helping him stay in college

Thanks to Educational Student Tours (EST) donors, Angelo Hopson is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration at Clark Atlanta University with a concentration on supply chain management. He spent this past summer interning at Boeing in Seattle, Washington, as a procurement finance analyst.

It's a life-changing opportunity he couldn't have imagined while being raised in Slidell, Louisiana. Angelo's mother worked as a cosmetologist, minister and single mother of seven children. It was a struggle to survive.

"Poverty was a constant tormentor," Angelo recalls. "My father was a drug abuser, in and out of prison. Life was hard and we were constantly moving."

The public school system mislabeled him and he was placed in special education classes for years, although he was never diagnosed with any learning disabilities.

"They thought I was slow, doubted me, and never thought I'd make anything of myself," Angelo said, noting the experience drained his self confidence.

After a decade of working a low-paying temp job, Angelo could see the writing on the wall—and it didn't look good. He decided to go back to school, enrolling at San Bernardino Valley College. There, an African-American History Professor told him about the EST Black College Tours. He met Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye at the EST orientation and she became his educational mentor, counseling him as he decided to transfer from the community college to Clark Atlanta University.

Angelo headed to Atlanta with only \$500 in his pocket and a \$1,000 tuition check from EST. He secured a part-time job at Walmart and set up a \$1,200/month payment plan to pay off the



balance of the semester's tuition, but quickly fell behind.

"The strength and optimism I had at the beginning of the semester began to fade," Angelo admits. "I had nowhere to go or stay. But I came to the realization that God didn't bring me this far to leave me now."

He tried to stay focused on his studies and ignore the angst over owing more than \$4,000. He confided in Delahoussaye, who had assisted him in completing scholarship applications. She began making calls and assured him that EST and its donors would supply his safety net and cover the rest of his tuition, if needed.

But then, one day, Angelo opened his mail to find that he had won a \$20,000 Thurgood Marshall College Fund scholarship—with one hitch—he couldn't get the funds until Fall 2019. That's when EST donors stepped in and helped him pay his balance.

Angelo believes there are three types of people in this world; people who see where you are going and choose not to help; people who see where you are going and will help you get there; and lastly, there are people who see where you are going, will help you get there and help you stay there. EST donors have been stellar examples of category three.

STUDENT PROFILE

Elijah Black

His dream is to become a drum major at an HBCU

Elijah has set the bar high. He's shooting for a double master's in Wildlife Biology and Music Production, inspired by his EST tour of historically black colleges.

"They showed me so many colleges I never knew about," Elijah said, noting that he has his sights set on several, including North Carolina A&T State University, Grambling State University and Howard University. "There are others but those stuck out for me the most."

EST donors supported Elijah and 13 other black males at Mann UCLA Community School, helping them go on the tour. EST will work with them during their senior year in order to find scholarships and additional financial aid to meet the tuition costs.

Elijah credits the HBCU tour for opening him up to a part of his African American culture that he'd never before experienced. With the help of EST, Elijah has already been awarded a four-year scholarship through the Choices Scholarship Program.

There have been a lot of personal struggles for Elijah, who sometimes lives with his mother and other times with relatives and friends. Often, the family runs out of food and the bills barely get paid.

"There have been times when I've wanted to give up," Elijah said. "The only thing that makes me continue is music and family because they hold something close to my heart."

Elijah credits his school's Musical/Band Director as a friend and mentor. "She gives me the experience that I need to give back to my community, as she does every day."



Elijah is a drummer and student band director.

"My goals are to give back once I graduate. When I play, I am in a new world full of less stress; it helps me think straight and lets me play out my emotions," Elijah says. "I love meeting new kids and giving them a second home through drumming and helping them get through their emotions."

"I teach them what I know because I want them to continue what's been taught to me," Elijah said. "That's how we can save kids from the streets—one beat at a time."

Phase 'Em Up!

Ten foster youth now have a chance at college because of donors like you

Mark your calendars! EST is inviting you to attend a going away party in June of 2020, before our tour students head off to college. Join us and hear first-hand the impact your donations have had on the lives of the 10 foster youth who went on our September trip.

For most African American foster youth, going to college is an impossible dream. The daily hurdles that they face in their teenage years are harsh and real: poverty, little-to-no family support, zero mentoring and high school counselors who rarely speak to them about going to college.

Brianna has been in foster care since she was 12 due to her mother's drug addiction. Nevertheless, she scored a 1250 on the SAT during her junior year (the highest at her high school) and has a 3.9 GPA.

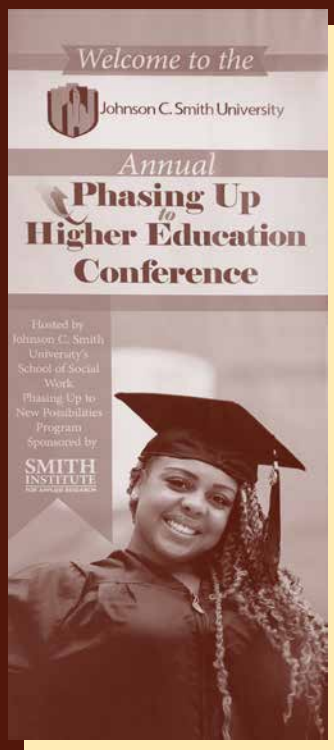
In September, your EST donations supported Brianna and nine other foster youth as they traveled to participate in the Phasing Up to New Possibilities program at Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU), a four-year liberal arts college in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Phasing Up, a special on-campus program designed specifically for foster youth, offers their students additional financial aid; help with finding local jobs; a food pantry; and mentors who are studying in the School of Social Work. Phasing Up just graduated an astonishing 70% of its students this year.

In addition to touring the campus, the trip coincided with Phasing Up's ten-year reunion. EST teens got to meet other foster youth in the program, including the keynote speaker, who was on her way to Morehouse Medical School on a full-ride scholarship.

"The emotion that came out of that trip, I can't describe to you," trip coordinator Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye said. "It was life changing."

In a bold move, the school agreed to waive the GPA and SAT requirements for the EST tour students.



"They definitely felt the love at Johnson," Delahoussaye said of the EST tour students. "Three of the seven seniors decided off the bat that was their school. That's where they are going."

This tour couldn't have happened without the combined efforts of private, corporate, and community donors like you. EST especially thanks the Hale Foundation; L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas; and Union Bank, who helped to fund this life-changing EST Black College Tour.

Ways to Give

ONE-TIME GIFT

I/we would like to support the work of Educational Student Tours with a one-time tax-deductible gift of:

- Platinum** \$1,750* and above
- Gold** \$1,000
- Silver** \$500
- Bronze** \$100
- Other** \$ _____

MULTI-YEAR GIVING

I/we would like to make a multi-year tax deductible gift every year for the next three years (2019, 2020, and 2021):

- Platinum** \$5,000
- Gold** \$3,000
- Silver** \$1,000
- Other** \$ _____

*This amount supports one student to go on the tour

Payment by Check

A check made payable to Educational Student Tours is enclosed for: \$

Payment by Credit Card

Please charge my credit card: \$

Cardholders name		
Card Number	Exp.	MM/YY
Signature	Security Code	
Billing Address		
City	State	ZIP
Phone	Email	

Examples of how your donations have benefitted EST students:

- ✓ Scholarships to attend the tour and apply to college
- ✓ Tuition assistance for needy students
- ✓ Meals while on the tour
- ✓ Emergency funds for foster youth

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5014 Shenandoah Avenue
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