

## **AT&T Honors 25 HBCU Students for the Inaugural Dream in Black Rising Future Makers Class**

***Honorees to Receive 5G's (\$5,000) and Mentorship from Celebrity Ambassadors J.R. Smith and La La Anthony***

NEW YORK, NY | November 30, 2021

### **What's the news?**

AT&T is proud to celebrate the Top 25 honorees from its inaugural Dream in Black Rising Future Makers class which recognizes students currently attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) who are making a positive impact within their communities and campuses. This initiative continues AT&T's ongoing commitment to empower future leaders and dedicate resources toward initiatives that foster economic growth and innovation within this educational community.

This program is an extension of AT&T's Dream in Black Future Maker program - an annual selection of leaders, innovators and activists who are dreaming big and making a difference. The selected honorees hail from colleges and universities such as Howard University and North Carolina A&T who aspire to become future professionals such as state senators, news reporters, entrepreneurs or to complete their education with PhD degrees. These students were selected for not only their previously notable accomplishments but also their planned future endeavors.

Along with \$5,000 presented by AT&T 5G, the winners will also receive a suite of technology tools.

The AT&T Dream in Black Rising Future Makers Class of 2021 includes:

- Amari Matthews - Clark Atlanta University, Junior
- Carrington Whigham - Florida A&M University, Senior
- Chazriq Clarke - Florida A&M University, Senior
- Christian White - Kentucky State University, Junior
- Corey Neal - North Carolina Central University, Junior
- Devan Vilfrard - Florida A&M University, Senior
- Gabrielle Stewart - Howard University, Senior
- Jasmine Franklin - Grambling State University, Senior
- Jeremiah Smith - North Carolina A&T State University, Freshman
- Joshua Burrell - Morehouse College, Senior
- Joshua Glover - North Carolina A&T State University, Freshman
- Joshua Suiter - North Carolina A&T State University, Senior
- Kawika Smith - Morehouse College, Junior
- Kayla Austin - Howard University, Freshman
- Kaylin Strahan - Clark Atlanta University, Sophomore
- Kennedy Buck - Hampton University, Senior

- Kristen Reid - Oakwood University, Senior
- Leyha Williams - Howard University, Sophomore
- Mekaya Williams-Franklin - Bowie State University, Sophomore
- Mikayla Massey - North Carolina A&T State University, Junior
- Rollin Jackson, Jr. - Morehouse College, Freshman
- Te'Daija Davenport - South Carolina State University, Senior
- Terrance Eaddy - Bethune-Cookman University, Senior
- Trajan Baker - Hampton University, Junior
- Tyren Walker - Bowie State University, Senior

### **How is AT&T supporting these 25 Future Makers?**

Each Dream in Black Rising Future Maker will receive \$5,000 presented by AT&T 5G, AT&T technology products and services, and access to VIP advocates like current HBCU Student and NBA Champion **J.R. Smith** and Actress, Entrepreneur **La La Anthony** to help support them on their journey to create history-making change. In addition, all 25 will be recognized with a special event held in Greensboro, NC on Dec. 11 with special appearances by J.R., La La, and television personality and actor Terrence J.

Beyond this larger celebration, there will be four more intimate events held at AT&T retail locations across the country for honorees to pick up their prizing package, enjoy an afternoon of fanfare with their communities and loved ones, speeches from AT&T executives, a live DJ, dance performance, and more.

### **What are the people saying?**

"The excellence in the submissions we received from around the country speak to the power and impact that HBCU students are already having and that we seek to amplify through Dream In Black initiatives," said Angela Burgin, Director of Marketing and Special Experiences, AT&T. "We are thrilled to recognize dynamic HBCU students for their amazing accomplishments and are excited to enable greater possibilities as they rise and endeavor to become leaders in their communities."

[AT&T Dream in Black](#) views the world and creativity through an afro-futuristic lens that is rooted in AT&T's technology and innovation, which connects them to greater possibilities.

For more information about AT&T's DE&I initiatives head to our [website](#).

### **\*About AT&T Communications**

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