



CHAngemakers

Jayliyah Hicks, a freshman at the University of Michigan, has big dreams. She is on a degree plan that includes cellular molecular biology for her bachelors and biomedical engineering for her masters.

“I want to be a doctor; I want to be a pediatrician,” she said. “And I’m interested in cancer research.”

Hicks attended Kenwood Academy, where she graduated early and began earning college credits. She got an early taste of college life this summer, participating in the Summer Bridge Program at Michigan that allowed her to get a jumpstart on her college career. She took three classes: English, math and a college prep course.

None of it would have been possible without her CHA scholarship, she said.

“The scholarship helped me because my goal is to get out of school debt-free,” Hicks said. “It was perfect because I still needed \$2,500, and that’s exactly what my scholarship was.”

This year, CHA has awarded scholarships to 220 students, selected from a pool of 510 applicants in the program’s most competitive year to date. Awardees received a total of \$250,000, which included 200 awards of \$1,000 each and 20 awards for \$2,500 each. Since the program’s inception five years ago, CHA has provided 1,100 awards totaling \$1.2 million in aid - helping students attending nearly 200 schools nationwide.

Besides the CHA scholarship, Hicks was one of 175 college-bound students who took part in the eighth annual “Take Flight College Send-Off” in August. Some 60 schools were represented as CHA students prepared to leave home and embark on college life, representing, among others, Brown University, Howard University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Grambling State University.

She says her pursuit of a career in medicine will be a challenge. But one that she is up for.

“My main focus is to research and find new cures and medical treatments,” she said. “There are a lot of medications that aren’t for certain people, where their choices are to either feel the side effects or not feel good. So I’d like to do more personalized medicine, and travel to different countries to help them develop medical treatment.”



Jayliyah Hicks participated in the Summer Bridge Program at Michigan that allowed her to get a jumpstart on her college career. She is majoring in cellular molecular biology and hopes to be a pediatrician.