



William O. Lockridge COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING. EDUCATING. ENRICHING.

The William O. Lockridge Community Foundation, founded in 2011, is a non-profit organization located in Southeast Washington, D.C. The Foundation promotes access to higher education to students in Wards 7 and 8 by offering scholarships, transportation assistance to college and international travel.

Spread Your Wings

Volume 7: Edition 1

March 31, 2025

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER/CHAIRWOMAN

Dear Friends:

I am excited to share the first quarter of the 2025 William O. Lockridge Community Foundation (WOLCF) Newsletter.

This is a tumultuous period in the history of the District of Columbia and the nation. The congressional legislation that created the U.S. Department of Education was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter on October 17, 1979. Its mission has been to improve student achievement for global competitiveness by promoting educational excellence and ensuring equal access to education for everyone while supporting state and local educational initiatives.

The efforts to dismantle the department are underway today, undoubtedly damaging learning in classrooms across Wards 7 and 8 and the District of Columbia.



Inside

- * Black History Month p.2
- * About the WOLCF p.2
- * Did You Know? p.2
- * New Member: Jordan L. Jones p.3
- * Women's History Month p.3
- * U.S. Foreign Service Initiative p.7
- * International Ambassadors' Corner p.9
- * The Spice is Right p.3
- * Lockridge Legacy: Stefan Lockridge Honored p.11
- * Announcements p.12
- * In the News p.12
- * Meet the Board of Directors p.13
- * Upcoming Events p.13
- * Contact us p.13

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month, celebrated every February, honors the contributions of Black Americans throughout history and promotes a greater understanding and appreciation of our rich cultural heritage and resilience. President Gerald R. Ford officially declared it a national observance in 1976 through a proclamation. However, the origins of Black History Month go back to the 1920s, when historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week.

Each day of Black History Month, WOLCF spotlighted Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Throughout the 28 days of February, one of these distinguished institutions showcased was Tennessee State University, the alma mater of William O. Lockridge (*continues on page 4*).

DID YOU KNOW?

The U.S. Department of Education was established in 1979, making it one of the youngest federal agencies. Before that, education was managed by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, which was discontinued in that same year.

About the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation:

Founded in 2011, the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation (WOLCF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the educational aspirations of students in Wards 7 and 8 in Southeast Washington, D.C. Our mission is to ensure students have access to higher education through scholarships, emergency financial aid, and international travel opportunities. WOLCF initiatives include the Emergency Financial Assistance Fund, the International Ambassadors Program, the U.S. Foreign Service Initiative, Showcase Southeast and various scholarship programs aimed at helping students achieve their academic dreams.

To learn more about the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation, visit www.WilliamLockridgeCommunityFoundation.org



Jordan L. Jones Joins the PR Committee



New Member of the Public Relations & Marketing Committee

Jordan L. Jones, a native of Detroit, Michigan, has joined the WOLCF’s Public Relations & Marketing Committee. She is a Senior Marketing Major at Howard University. Welcome to the WOLCF Family, Jordan!

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Women’s History Month, celebrated in March, is an annual observance highlighting women’s contributions to historical events and contemporary society. Official recognition as a national celebration began in 1987, following a week-long observance that started in 1980 with President Jimmy Carter’s proclamation of National Women’s History Week.

Throughout March, the WOLCF has honored Black women making a significant impact in the community. They include:

If the work of the WOLCF has been essential since its founding in spring 2011 – and it certainly has – our mission is even more crucial today as we continue to bridge the education gap in our community, support high school seniors in pursuing college, offer opportunities to travel to Africa, and introduce them to international careers in global affairs.

At the WOLCF, we will not be distracted or discouraged. Instead, we will do what my late husband, William, and our ancestors did: put our heads down, roll up our sleeves, and keep working “until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and see WOLCF's work firsthand. I am genuinely thankful, and none of this would be possible without you.

Wanda D. Lockridge
Wanda D. Lockridge
Founder & Chairwoman

Wanda D. Lockridge, Angela Chester Johnson, Jaren Hill Lockridge, Tiffany L. Brown. Tori Hawkins-Plummer, Yvette M. Alexander, Tatiana Robinson, Barbara Jones, Sheila Bunn, Ada Anagho Brown, Jazzmyne Townsend, Eboni-Rose Thompson, Dr. Carlene Reid, Naiya Brooks, Sharri Barnes, Terra Minor, Eboni-Thair Lewis, Ambar Jackson, Logan Arthur, Britt Waters, Natasha Thompson, Dionne Reeder, Lynnita Jones, Carol Holley, Faith Hubbard, Theresa Dubois, Kristina Noel, Maya Martin, Erika Harrell, Jacqueline Pogue Lyons, and Patricia Brantley.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Bennett



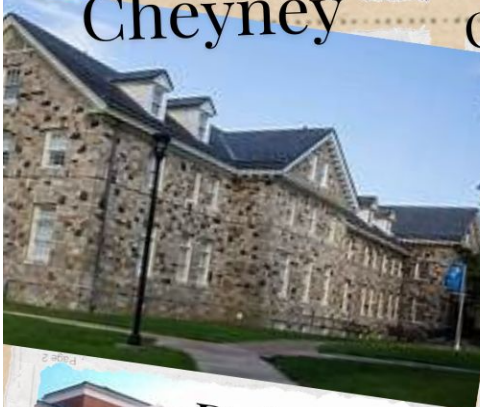
Bluefield



Bowie



Cheyney



Clark Atlanta



Coppin



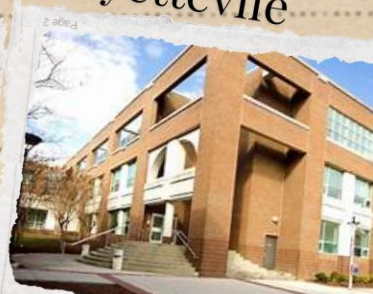
Delaware



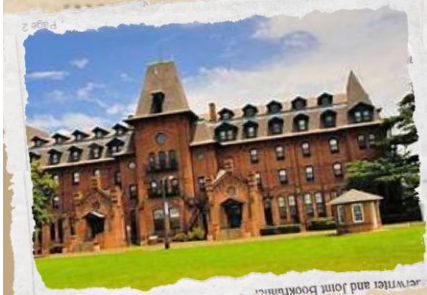
Elizabeth City



Fayetteville



Hampton



Howard



Johnson C. Smith



Lincoln



Livingstone



Morgan



Norfolk
start her



NC A&T



NC Central



St. Aug



Shaw



Univ of Md Eastern
Shore



Celebrate
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

UDC



Virginia State



Virginia Union



Univ of Lynchburg



West VA State



Winston Salem



Tennessee State



There are currently 101 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). In the 1930s, 121 HBCUs existed, representing three percent of the nation's public and private colleges. Today, 7 offer doctoral programs, 52 offer master's programs, 83 offer bachelor's degree programs, and 38 offer associate degrees.

During Black History Month, the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation highlighted 28 HBCUs

William Lockridge, biology major, attended Tennessee State University (TSU) on a swim scholarship and graduated in 1970.



The six sessions of the U.S. Foreign Service Initiative (USFSI) concluded on March 22nd with an awards ceremony, the presentation of completion certificates, and the announcement of the 2025 class of WOLCF International Ambassadors, who are set to travel to Luanda, Angola, this summer.

For three years, the USFSI has offered career opportunities in international affairs to high school students in Wards 7 and 8, showcasing options in both the public and private sectors. Over six two-hour Saturday sessions, participants engaged with various topics, including International Trade, African Tourism, Environment and Agriculture, African Art and Culture, Domestic and International Media, and International Diplomacy.

Speakers for the final session on International Diplomacy speakers were Priscilla De Lemos Coelho (First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Angola); Dana Banks (Senior Advisor, Africa Business Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce); and Ryan M. Macauley (Investment Associate, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation).

Field trips were taken to The Washington Informer, Anacostia Community Museum, and Anacostia Art Gallery & Boutique.

The WOLCF would like to thank the other speakers from the past six weeks, including Denise Rolark Barners (Publisher, The Washington Informer), Sam P.K. Collins (Writer, The Washington Informer), Angela Chester-Johnson (Board Member and CEO, Plum Good LLC), Jaren Hill-Lockridge (Board Member and Director of Strategic Partnerships, Dreaming Out Loud, Inc.), Ada Anagho-Brown (Member of the USFSI Committee and President of Roots To Glory Tours), and Greg Simpkins (Member of the USFSI Committee and Principal of 21st Century Concepts).

Taylor Muie (10th grade, McKinley Technology High School), Maegan Godoy (12th grade, Friendship Technology Preparatory Academy), Cire Wilson (12th grade, Duke Ellington School of the Arts), and Carlone Leach (10th grade, McKinley Technology High School) were selected for the 2025 Class of WOLCF International Student Ambassadors.

Ambassadors Muie, Godoy, Wilson, and Leach will depart from Washington for Angola on July 18 and return on July 28.

Finally, the WOLCF thanks Carol Holley, the Executive Director of the Highlands Community Center, for hosting the USFSI.



U.S. Foreign Service Initiative

Close-out and Award Ceremony: March 22, 2025

CLOSE-OUT AND AWARD CEREMONY IMAGES



2024 WOLCF International Ambassadors' Corner

AMBER JACKSON



Amber Jackson traveled to Madagascar last July as a WOLCF International Student Ambassador. She is currently a 10th grader at McKinley Tech High School. Recently, Amber learned she was accepted into a biotech internship program funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) at Children's National Hospital. She is one of eight high school students selected in the DMV area – super competitive program. She will spend her summer at National Children's Hospital working alongside their medical team to gain hands-on research experience related to neuroscience, neurobiology, and related fields.

Congratulations, Amber!

LOGAN ARTHUR



Logan Arthur, is in the 10th grade at McKinley Tech High School and serves as President of Youth and Government. Logan was recently appointed as a College Bound Site Ambassador and attends classes at the University of the District of Columbia, UDC.

Congratulations Logan!

Spice is Right

Cloves are used worldwide as a spice in various foods, baked goods, and hot beverages. It has numerous antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. At certain times in history, cloves were so valuable that they were used as currency and even offered as valuable gifts to kings and queens.



JAYLEN PARKER

Jaylen Parker is a WOLCF International Ambassador who traveled to Madagascar. Since the trip, he has been sworn into the U.S. Air Force Active Duty. While awaiting his ship date, in his "spare time," Jaylen is the Interim Public Affairs Correspondent for the Potomac River Young Marines Program.

Congratulations, Jaylen!

Meet the 2025 WOLCF International Ambassadors

From left to right: Austin R. Cooper, Jr. (Program Coordinator); **Cire Wilson** (12th grade, Duke Ellington School of the Arts); **Taylor Muie** (10th grade, McKinley Technology High School); Priscilla De Lemos Coelho (First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Angola); Wanda D. Lockridge (Founder/Chairwoman); **Maegan Godoy** (12th grade, Friendship Technology Preparatory Academy); and **Carlone Leach** (10th grade, McKinley Technology High School).



Lockridge Legacy Lives On

Stefan O. Lockridge I Honored by the Washington Informer

During The Washington Informer's 60th Anniversary Legacy Awards Gala, Stefan O. Lockridge I, Vice Chair of the WOLCF and son of Wanda and Willian Lockridge, was among six notable legacy-building Washingtonians honored.

The Gals was held on March 28th at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. Other Legacy Honorees included Kamal Ali (Owner, Ben's Chili Bowl); Stacie Lee Banks (President, Lee's Flower Shop); Adam Levin (Co-Owner, Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center); Cheryl Lofton (President & CEO, Cheryl Lofton & Associates); and B. Doyle Mitchell, Jr. (President & CEO, Industrial Bank).

Stefan O. Lockridge II, a 10th grader at Carroll High School, presented the award to his father. Following in his father's footsteps, Lockridge I is an educator who has been teaching for 16 years and currently teaches music production at KIPP DC.

Reflecting on the distinct honor immediately after the Gala, Lockridge said, "Tonight has been amazing. I am honored. I was super honored to be sitting on a panel with so many great people. Being a third-generation Black male educator has been super important, and having this opportunity and experience has been invaluable."



The WOLCF congratulates Denise Rolark Barnes, Publisher, and The Washington Informer Team on 60 years of outstanding service to our community. We wish you another 60 years of educating, empowering, and informing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**William O. Lockridge
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Eligibility

- Must be a high school graduating senior;
- Must be a DC resident;
- Must be a resident of Ward 7 or 8 OR attend a Ward 7 or 8 high school;
- Must have at least a 2.5; and
- Must apply no later than the April 11th deadline.
- Preference for students who live in Ward 7 or 8 AND attend a Ward 7 or 8 high school.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

APPLY NOW <https://tinyurl.com/WOLCFScholarship2025>

For information contact us at info@WilliamLockridgeCommunityFoundation.org

Deadline
Friday, April 11, 2025 @ 11:59 p.m.

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www.WilliamLockridgeCommunityFoundation.org



DANCING WITH THE SCHOLARS XIV

Save the Date

11.08.2025

**William O. Lockridge
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**
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IN THE NEWS

Lockridge Named Director of Engagement for Therme DC (*The Washington Informer*)

Therme Group is known globally for its urban wellbeing facilities that offer customers amenities such as thermal baths, several saunas and wet rooms, thermal and mineral pools, waterslides, relaxation beds, immersive arts, a wide variety of restaurants and tree and plant life. The Poplar Point facility will be known as Therme DC.

Wanda D. Lockridge, a Ward 8 resident and the former chair of the D.C. Democratic State Committee, will serve as Therme DC's Director of Engagement.

Read full article below.

Stefan Lockridge Carries Forth Family Legacy of Community Activism (*The Washington Informer*)

The name "Lockridge" in Ward 8 is synonymous with political and civic activism, community engagement and educational advocacy. Now, Stefan Lockridge is working hard to make sure his family's legacy continues in the future.

Read full article below.

DMV Fine Arts Honor Awards Coming to Historic Thurgood Marshall Center on April 5 (*The Washington Informer*)

Honorees include Virginia Ali, co-founder of Ben's Chili Bowl; Grammy-nominated gospel artist Anthony Brown; R&B artist and radio host Raheem DeVaughn; motivational life coaches Willie and Dee Jolley; **Wanda Lockridge of the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation**; Stan and Chereace Richards of the Richards Group) Lafayette Barnes and Washington Informer Publisher Denise Rolark Barnes; and many more.

Read full article below.

Trump Admin. Suspends Student Loan Repayment Plans: Wanda D. Lockridge Speaks

Wanda D. Lockridge, founder of the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation scholarship program, said this change will also impact future students. "Particularly now we have seen a great need and there will be a greater need, especially with the budget that's being cut," Lockridge said.

Read full article below.

Listen to the full Interview below.
(*ABC Channel 7 News*)

Read full article below.
Listen to the full Interview below.
(*ABC Channel 13 News*)

Read full article below.
(*Baltimore Sun*)

Meet the Board of Directors

Wanda D. Lockridge, *Founder/Chairwoman*

Stefan Lockridge, *Vice Chairman & Scholarship/Development Committee*

Linval Crosdale, *Treasurer*

Tori Hawkins, *Secretary & Scholarship/Development Committee*

Yvette Alexander, *Fundraising Committee*

Tiffany L. Brown, *Chair, Scholarship/Program Development Committee*

Austin R. Cooper, Jr., *Chair, Public Relations Committee & US Foreign Service Initiative*

Angela Chester-Johnson, *Scholarship/Program Development Committee & US Foreign Service Initiative*

Jaren Hill Lockridge, *Events Planning Committee*

Jacque Patterson, *Chair, Fundraising Committee*

Tatiana Robinson, *Chair, Young Adult Committee*

Click on the link below and learn about the leadership team of the WOLCF

Upcoming Events

Scholarship Awards Ceremony

June 28, 2025

International Ambassadors Program (Angola)

July 2025

Showcase Southeast

August 2025

Dancing with the Scholars XV

November 8, 2025

Committees

Events Planning

Sheila Bunn, *Co-Chair*

Barbara Jones, *Co-Chair*

Yolanda Fields

Fundraiser

See Board of Directors

Public Relations

David Beckford

Jordan L. Jones

Scholarship/Program Development

See Board of Directors

Young Adult

See Board of Directors

US Foreign Service Initiative (Ad Hoc)

Ada Anagho Brown

Greg Simpkins

Contact Us

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