

OWJEF
OSCAR WASHINGTON, JR. EDUCATIONAL FUND

8th ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP
Gala

FRIDAY, APRIL 25
7 PM

*The Venue
at Westwind*

7318 Windsong Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72113

IN HONOR OF *Oscar D. Washington, Jr.*

The family and friends of Oscar David Washington, Jr. created this scholarship program to honor the legacy of a great man, husband, father, brother, and friend.

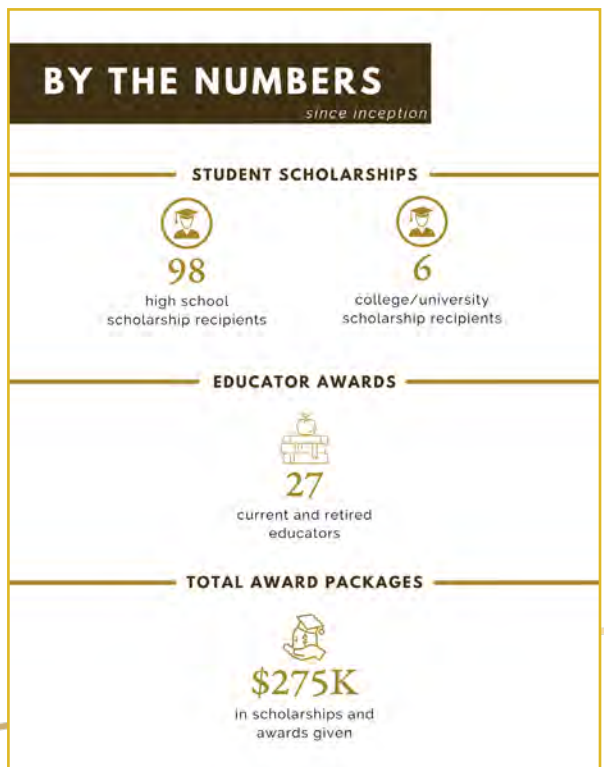
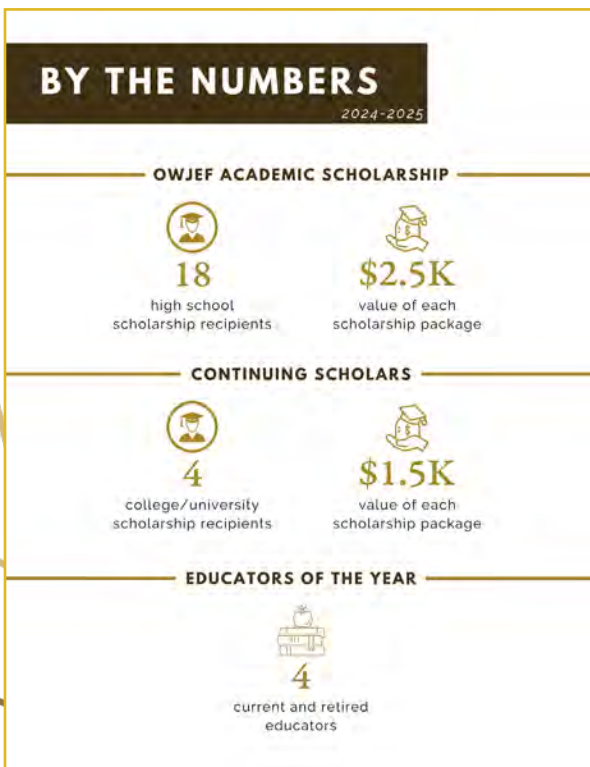
Oscar was a 1986 graduate of Carlisle High School and a 1990 graduate of the University of Central Arkansas at Conway. He was a Certified Public Accountant with a Master's degree in Business from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and he served as a Captain in the Arkansas Army National Guard, 39th Infantry Brigade.

Oscar had the pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Customer Service, Entergy Arkansas, and as the owner of ODS Enterprises, LLC, Gold Medal Flooring, and Genesis Construction.



One of Oscar's greatest gifts was being a disciple of Christ and freely serving others and the community. He was a Deacon at Saint Mark Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas. He also demonstrated this by being a faithful volunteer, mentor, and leader for various organizations such as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Big Brothers Big Sister's Agency of Pulaski County, Pulaski Technical College, Alumni Association for the University of Central Arkansas, the Arkansas Home Builder's Association, American Heart Association, and more.

Our Impact



ALMA J. WASHINGTON

EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

Namesake



The Alma J. Washington Educators of the Year Award was established to recognize educators in our community who have spent their careers investing their gifts of teaching and compassion in the lives of students. Mrs. Washington is the mother of Oscar D. Washington, Jr. and this award honors her lifetime of education in Arkansas.

2025 Honorees



**FELICIA
HAYES**
Otter Creek
Elementary School



**ANTHONY
LUCAS**
Pulaski Academy High School
Head Football Coach



**STAR
WICKER**
Retired Educator



**DR. JOCELYN
ELDERS**
Retired Educator,
Former U.S. Surgeon General

GRADUATING SENIORS

2025 Awardees

SYDNEY ARRIETA

Little Rock Southwest Magnet High School

- Honor Roll (top 10% of class)
- Academy of Baptist Health Medical Sciences, participant
- Children's International, member

ALLISON BURGESS

Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School

- National Honor Society
- 3x Presidential Scholar (top 10% of class)
- Principal's Honor Student

CAMERON CRESS

Carlisle High School

- National Honor Society
- Arkansas Boys State Delegate
- Carlisle First Methodist Church Praise Team Leader

MARICKA FARR

Bryant High School

- Senior Class President
- Arkansas Girls State Representative
- Minority Leadership Council

ANGEL MARTINEZ GUTIERREZ

Mills High School

- Honor Roll Graduate (#1 in class of 2025)
- All-Region First Band
- Comet National Einstein Award Recipient

KAYLEE HUDSON

Bearden High School

- Honor Roll Graduate (#1 in class of 2025)
- Beta Club President
- National Honor Society



GRADUATING SENIORS

2025 Awardees

LILLY HUDSON

Bearden High School

- Honor Roll Graduate
- Top 10% of Graduating Class
- National Rural and Small Town Recognition Awardee

COHEN HUGHES

Little Rock Southwest High School

- Arkansas Boys State
- All Region Band
- National Honor Society

SKYLER JAMES

Pulaski Academy High School

- National Beta Club
- Honor Roll Graduate
- National Hispanic Honor Society

ZALEIGHA KELLEY

Pulaski Academy High School

- Presidents List and Honor Roll
- Beta Club Member
- National Honor Society

CHLOE LEWIS

Joe T. Robinson High School

- AP Scholar
- National Honor Society
- Honor Roll Graduate (top 10% of class)

DYLAN MIDDLETON

Bryant High School

- Distinguished High Honor Graduate (top 10% of class)
- Arkansas Boy's State
- First African American Eagle Scout in Troop 17 history



GRADUATING SENIORS

2025 Awardees

ASA ORNELAS

eStem High School

- Honor Roll (top 10% of class)
- eStem Directors List with Distinction
- Arkansas Girls State Attendee

KAYDEN OUSLEY

North Little Rock High School

- National Honor Society
- AP Scholar Award
- Mad Science Lab, Founder/Instructor

KENNEDY PITTS

Bentonville High School

- National Honor Society
- Top Teens of America Member
- First Place National Beam Champion in Gymnastics

DYLAN VINSON

Bryant High School

- Arkansas Governor's School
- AP Scholar with Distinction (top 10% of class)
- FBLA (1st Place District - Economics)

ALYSE WATSON

Malvern High School

- Arkansas Girls State Representative
- National Honor Society
- National Beta Club

ANTHONY WHITE II

LISA Academy West High School

- National Honor Society
- Class of 2025 Salutatorian
- Arkansas Governor's School



CONTINUING STUDENTS

2025 Awardees

When we started this educational fund in 2018, our focus was to give financial assistance to a few high school seniors that were going to college. Since that time, we have expanded our efforts in the area of education to include the OWJ Internship Initiative - assisting our scholars in obtaining paid summer internships in their field of study. We also started the Oscar Juniors program where we have adopted three local elementary schools and, in partnership with First Security Bank, we make financial deposits into the student saver accounts of elementary students who are nominated based on good grades, conduct and attendance.

For the second year, our team committed to our OWJ Continuing Scholars grant for 2025. We select a minimum of two college students, who are not previous OWJ scholarship recipients, and award a \$1,500 grant to each student.



CAMPBELL CHRISTENSEN
Hendrix College
Interdisciplinary
(Writing, Anthropology, and Studio Art)



JORDAN CRAIG
University of Arkansas
Physical Therapist Assistant



CYDNEY DAVIS
University of Central Arkansas
Photography and Film Communications



ANTONIO TROTTER
Williams Baptist University
Sports Management

SPEAKER

Hugh McDonald

Hugh T. McDonald was appointed Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Commerce by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders in 2023. The Department of Commerce encompasses a wide range of agencies, including the Arkansas State Bank Department, Arkansas Securities Department, Arkansas Insurance Department, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Arkansas Development Finance Authority, Waterways Commission, Division of Aeronautics, Reemployment, Workforce Connections, and Policy.

Before his appointment, Hugh served as chief executive officer of Entergy Arkansas, Inc. from 2000 until his retirement in 2016. Entergy Arkansas is the state's largest electric utility, serving over 700,000 customers with annual revenues exceeding \$2 billion. Hugh began his career at Entergy in 1982 as an engineer at the Waterford 3 nuclear generating plant in Louisiana. Over the years, he held a variety of management roles in distribution, transmission, customer service, retail marketing, and regulatory affairs across Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Arkansas.

During his tenure as CEO, Hugh formed a close friendship with Oscar Washington Jr., the namesake of OWJEF. Recognizing Oscar's intellect and leadership potential, Hugh played a key role in Oscar becoming the first African American Vice President of Customer Service in Entergy Arkansas' history. Following Oscar's passing, Hugh was instrumental in the founding of the Oscar Washington Jr. Educational Fund (OWJEF), securing \$10,000 in seed money to help launch the organization.

Prior to his time at Entergy, Hugh worked for Black and Veatch Consulting Engineers in Overland Park, Kansas. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for both the Nature Conservancy of Arkansas and the North Dakota State University Foundation. Hugh holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management from North Dakota State University, earned in 1980, and an MBA from the University of New Orleans, completed in 1987. He and his wife, Michelle, have three children.



PROGRAM

Greetings & Acknowledgements Pamela Smith, Host
Presentation of Educators Amori Anthony
Prayer..... RoShone Kelly

Dinner is Served
(music provided by G-Music featuring Tania Kelley)

Introduction of Speaker

SpeakerMr. Hugh McDonald

Presentation of Students.. Brian Gittens & McKenzie Smith
OWJ Alumni

Video Presentation

Appeal.....JaNan Arnold Thomas

Remarks from Chair Judge Mark Leverett

Blessing for the OrganizationPastor John C. Richards, Jr.
Saint Mark Baptist Church



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FROM THE *Little Rock Mayor*



April 25, 2025

Dear Esteemed Guests,

On behalf of the City of Little Rock, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 8th Annual Oscar Washington, Jr. Scholarship Banquet. This evening, we come together to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our scholarship recipients, recognize the dedicated educators who shape their futures, and honor the lasting legacy of an extraordinary man—Oscar Washington, Jr.



Oscar Washington, Jr. devoted his life to service, leadership, and mentorship, leaving a profound impact on all who had the privilege of knowing him. As a respected leader at Entergy, a dedicated Deacon at Saint Mark Baptist Church, and a champion for education and community empowerment, he inspired those around him to strive for excellence and give back selflessly. His vision and passion continue to live on through the work of the Oscar Washington, Jr. Educational Fund (OWJEF), ensuring that future generations have the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

We are also honored to welcome our keynote speaker, Hugh McDonald, whose guidance and mentorship played a pivotal role in Oscar's career. Hugh not only recognized Oscar's intellect and leadership potential but also helped pave the way for his historic achievements. Tonight, we celebrate that legacy of support, leadership, and unwavering dedication to uplifting others.

As we gather in Oscar's memory, may we be inspired by his example and remain committed to fostering education, leadership, and service in our community. Thank you for being part of this special occasion, and may we continue to honor his legacy in all that we do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Frank Scott, Jr.".

Mayor Frank Scott, Jr.
City of Little Rock

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Entergy Arkansas

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Oscar Washington, Jr. Educational Fund
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