

SHERMAINE  
JAMES  
ROBINSON  
COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC  
AND SUMMER  
PROGRAM  
SCHOLARSHIPS

*Recipients of the Shermaine James Robinson College Academic Scholarship*

2012-2013

**Kevin T. Hightower** (Spring Hill, FL) – Morehouse College  
[\$500.00]

2013-2014

**James Philip “Trey” Parson, III** (Randleman, NC) – University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
[\$500.00]

*Recipients of the Shermaine James Robinson Summer Program Scholarship*

2013-2014

**Keziah T. Anderson** (Jacksonville, FL) – Intensive Law and Trial at Stanford University  
[\$250.00]

**Tirzah Anderson** (Jacksonville, FL) – National Student Leadership Conference on Political Action and Public Policy at American University, Washington, DC  
[\$250.00]

2014-2015

**Timia Johnson** (Washington, DC) – Leadership LINKS Summer Leadership Camp for Girls  
[\$200.00]

## **Kevin T. Hightower, 18**

*"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."* - Helen Keller

Kevin Trent Hightower, the first recipient of the Shermaine James Robinson Academic Scholarship, was accepted into the prestigious Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Kevin hopes the younger generation will be able to look to the path he chose towards success and be inspired, in spite of any setbacks or challenges, to go to college and follow their dreams. Kevin embodies grace and perseverance and is the epitome of what it means to have a positive attitude in all situations. He embraces hard work, often receiving the satisfaction of a job well done as his only reward.

Kevin graduated with honors from Springstead High School in Spring Hill, Florida with a weighted grade point average of 3.24. While pursuing his traditional classroom education, Kevin also took on-line coursework, was active on the Yearbook staff, Italian Club and Environmental Club, and was extremely involved in his community. An inspiration to the youth, he was very involved with his church's summer camp program as a camp counselor, working part time and volunteering over 570 hours educating 30 children under the age of 13. He took his position as a role model very seriously, and demonstrated exceptional leadership and maturity. For two years, Kevin dedicated countless hours to the Audio-Visual Ministry, ensuring quality sound, live visual aid, and production, packaging and sales of CDs and DVDs for New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Over the course of three years, Kevin volunteered with the Food Pantry Ministry, spending Saturday mornings unloading and distributing food throughout the local community. He continuously receives praise from community leaders for his optimistic outlook, dedication and reliability, demonstrating excellence in all he pursues. "Whether something seems easy or difficult," says Kevin, "still give it your best effort."

Undoubtedly, Kevin will continue to achieve success both during his attendance at Morehouse College and after graduation. We have no doubt he will continue to be recognized for his academic prowess, strong moral character and commitment to community.



**James Philip “Trey” Parson, III, 17**

*“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

James Philip Parson, III, aka “Trey,” graduated from Randleman High School in Randleman, NC, and accepted an offer to attend University of North Carolina – Greensboro, with dreams of becoming a lawyer. While in high school, he was a member of the Mock Trial team and the Key Club, and also served as an assistant teacher at Level Cross Elementary School.

Trey selected Political Science as his major. He is a member of the College Democrats Club, and pledged as a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. As an active fraternity member, he served as Junior Vice President and Fraternity Educator, and will be Vice President of Philanthropy in the spring semester of his sophomore year.

With strong moral character and courage, we look forward to Trey being a positive advocate in the community and finding innovative solutions to our society’s challenges.



## Keziah Anderson, 16

*“The law should be a shield for the weak and powerless, not a club for the powerful.”* – Former Georgia Governor Roy Barnes, Equal Justice Conference, 2004

Keziah Anderson has been hailed as one of Florida’s brightest and most gifted students. Having grown up in Rota, Spain, Keziah made the adjustment to life in the United States in her sophomore year of high school; she was a standout among her other academically gifted peers, maintaining a 3.93 GPA. Balancing academics with athletics, Keziah has also demonstrated tremendous talent on the girls’ basketball team.

Keziah’s love of learning and compassion towards others led her to apply and gain admittance to Intensive Law & Trial, a highly competitive 10-day program in collaboration with Stanford Law School. This program provides “high-achieving high school students with an exciting and interactive experience exploring the field of law.” While at the program, Keziah discovered what it takes to be a 21<sup>st</sup> century attorney, deepening her appreciation for the legal field. Through her interaction with legal professionals, including Stanford Law School faculty, Keziah strengthened her commitment to be a defense for the defenseless and become a civil rights lawyer. Keziah was accepted into Columbia University, and will begin classes in 2016. She intends to use her education and talents to serve a non-profit organization that fights for “an international cause, minority rights, or victims of abuse.”

We look forward to following Keziah’s career; certainly she will make an indelible impression in support of human rights as she fights for equality in justice.



## **Tirzah B. Anderson, 14**

*“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.” – Benjamin Franklin*

Tirzah moved to Jacksonville, Florida from Rota, Spain in her freshman year of high school. Making the adjustment from having lived outside of the United States, Tirzah proved to be self-motivated and unrelenting in her desire to excel in spite of differences in how courses were taught in Europe. She maintained a 3.89 GPA, and was praised by teachers as a young lady with “great character and a strong work ethic.”

Tirzah was accepted to attend the National Student Leadership Conference on Political Action and Public Policy held at American University. Each summer, a “select group of outstanding high school students [are invited] to participate in fast-paced, high-level, interactive summer sessions.” During the program, Tirzah was able to learn about the inner workings of the U.S. Congress and the American political system, as well as visit the State Department, the Pentagon, and Capitol Hill, meeting with members of Congress and campaign strategists.

Upon moving from Spain to Florida, Tirzah learned about certain injustices and inconsistencies with state law, particularly the “Stand your Ground” law. Even though not directly impacted by the law, Tirzah says she was outraged over the unfairness of the law when applied to different people in similar situations. She has always wanted to help people, and loves to volunteer. Although becoming a lawyer will take “a lot of hard work,” Tirzah believes “helping people is a greater feeling than the hard work I will have to put in to become a lawyer.”

We are happy to support Tirzah’s goal of becoming a lawyer, and excitedly await her passing the bar in the years ahead, and doing great work in the community.



## **Timia Johnson, 15**

*“Give yourself a chance to see how much better life will get...and it will get better.”* – Joel Burns

Timia was nominated by Maria Lumanlan, CEO of Luke Initiative in Washington, DC. Maria believed Timia would benefit from attending the Leadership LINKS Leadership Summer Program for Girls, where she would be exposed to a week-long program that introduced twenty 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade girls to leadership opportunities in the fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Education and Math), Media and Arts, Military and Government, Entrepreneurship, and International Justice. The girls worked together individually and in teams, focusing on personal goals and creating viable community service oriented business concepts.

Timia learned the basic aspects of flying a plane in a flight simulator, gained first-hand knowledge of District Council responsibilities, and together with four other aspiring leaders “formed” a small business to combat teen suicide.

