

PhRMA Scholars

- The PhRMA Scholars program seeks to support Minds Matter DC students who are dedicated to pursuing a robust and well-rounded education but may lack the needed funds to defray all costs associated with attending college.
- Each year, a minimum of two exceptional high school seniors will be selected to receive \$4,000 to put towards college and related expenses.
- The scholarship specifically targets high-achieving high school seniors from low-income households in the Washington D.C. area who plan to attend a four-year college or university following graduation.

About Minds Matter DC

Minds Matter DC is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to connect driven and determined students from low-income families with the people, preparation, and possibilities to succeed in college, create their future, and change the world.

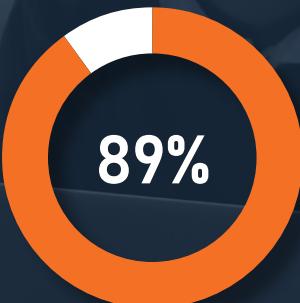
On average, Minds Matter students get 85% of their tuition needs met through federal and local grants, school aid, scholarships, and loans. However, the remaining 15% of tuition represents a significant barrier to accessing and affording a college education.

The PhRMA Scholars program seeks to fill this gap and ensure these exceptional students from our community are able to benefit from all the opportunities a college education offers.



100%

of Minds Matter students accepted into four-year colleges and universities.



89%

of Minds Matter students are first-generation college students.

The Class of 2021 PhRMA Scholars on What Innovation Means to Them



Vivian will attend George Mason University where she plans to study engineering. Vivian was born in Nigeria and immigrated with her parents as a child. In her free time, she enjoys journalism, dancing, writing poetry and lyrics, singing, and photography.

"Overall, whenever I think about innovation, I think about changes and improvements. I want to major in engineering because it is really exciting to carry out hands-on related tasks that include designing and creating machines. When you create and devise machines, devices, and different types of equipment, you never know how much you can make a difference in everyone's lives."



Asia will attend New York University where she plans to study neurology. Her dream is to become a neuroscientist. In her free time, Asia is currently learning sign language and enjoys playing piano, cheerleading, playing softball and singing.

"To me, innovation is transformation. Most people only consider innovation to apply to objects, but it can apply to people too. Innovation in objects is iterating on an existing idea and improving it in a new way. Innovation in people is growing and learning in an effort to become your best self."



Zannat graduated first in her class from Theodore Roosevelt High School and will attend Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service. Zannat plans to become a lawyer working on issues related to immigration and equity. In her free time, she enjoys painting, reading, and watching anime.

"Simply speaking, to me, innovation is not the grand moment where one has a scientific breakthrough; rather, it is the process of reinventing the wheel so that life is easier to live."



Jocelyn will attend Trinity Washington University where she plans to study psychology. In high school, Jocelyn was the point guard and captain of the varsity basketball team, successfully balancing these responsibilities with her academic studies and part-time job. In her free time, Jocelyn enjoys writing and performing her own music.

"Innovation is a process. This process consists of persistence, time, errors, and mistakes. In order to change or evolve things, we must learn about the mistakes in order to prevent them in the future. To turn an idea into reality, we must take risks."



For additional information, contact scholars@phrma.org