

## 2023 Scholars/Cohort 10



**Tyler *Duncan*** has a B.A. in History from Jackson State University. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Science program with the School of Public Health in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Jackson State University. He is hoping to expand his public health skills to address cardiovascular disease. His curiosity and willingness to broaden his knowledge is driven from an experienced personal chronic illness.

Tyler states this program will equip him with the necessary information and knowledge to better understand cardiovascular diseases and how to treat it accordingly. He feels the program is a great stepping stone to his career as an Epidemiologist.



**Ayana *Davis*** has a B.S. in Health, P.E., and Recreation from Jackson State University. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Science program with the School of Public Health in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Jackson State University, coupled with various completed certifications in continuing education. As a research coordinator and having a close relative suffer from complications from the heart, she aspires to conduct research in support of those

currently battling cardiovascular disease. She states she is confident that the experience and knowledge that she will gain throughout the program will be an integral component of propelling her career in public health towards her ultimate goal of becoming a principal investigator.

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**August Slater** obtained her education from Washington, D.C. with a B.S. in Psychology from Howard University and a Master of Arts in Global Environmental Policy from American University. She also acquired various certifications in continuing education. She is currently enrolled in the Doctoral of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology program at Jackson State University. August has been familiar with research training programs since high school years.

Her first encounter was with the National Institute of Mental Health's Career and Opportunities Research program at Jackson State University. She also has work experience as a Program Manager of a particular biomedical research program which allowed her to directly engage with research participants who struggled with one or more chronic conditions in addition to depression and/or anxiety. This observation led her to conclude that the connection between mental health and physical health is undeniable. She plans to further understand the phenomenon.



**Ryan Standfield** is currently enrolled in the Master of Science program with the School of Public Health in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Jackson State University. He is passionate in working on the frontline in communities with high prevalence of cardiovascular disease and build out systems that will help reduce prevalence. His ultimate goal is to become the founder of a non-profit organization that will work

to reduce high prevalence in chronically challenged communities. He strongly believes participating in this program will prepare him to be more successful in fulfilling his goal by developing research and professional capacity to conduct research and build out evidence-based strategies for intervention and prevention of cardiovascular disease.

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**Prosper Anane** is a first-year medical student at William Carey University with hopes of becoming a Cardiothoracic Surgeon. In consequence of a loss of a beloved relative, due to a heart attack, it has been a mission to enhance his knowledge on cardiac diseases. Throughout the program, Prosper hopes to gain the education necessary to be resourceful in guiding the community to a good and healthy life through their heart and to become the best servant to his patients as well as the general population.



**Korey Walter** is a medical student in Osteopathic Medicine at William Carey University. He also acquires both a Bachelor and Master of Science credentials. Through the experience gained in working previously as a medical research technician, Korey wants to expand and enhance the knowledge gained in basic science research to clinical research. He states he believes the DHWS program can provide the opportunity to expand his knowledge of cardiovascular research as a result of its successful history in generating quality data. He is confident that the program is consistent with his career goal in becoming an osteopathic physician. Utilizing the program, he feels he can effectively apply the knowledge gained to how he provides competent care to his patients.



**Andrea Golden** is currently pursuing a Doctoral of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology at Jackson State University. She obtains a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Alabama. Andrea aspires to become a distinguished clinical psychologist and researcher. She seeks to enhance her knowledge and quality of research while obtaining guidance for future publications. Throughout the matriculation of the

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program, she expects the program to encourage improvement in her communication skills and greater confidence in presenting research. The goal is to utilize the training provided by the DHWS program to aid her research focus on cardiovascular disease by strengthening specific skills as it relates to research.



**Brittany Clayborn** has obtained a Bachelor of Science and currently attends the University of Southern Mississippi with a concentration in Public Health (Epidemiology). She has participated in research training that allowed her to network and share her findings across various research conferences such as the Mississippi Public Health Association Conference. Brittany believes this program could serve as a great opportunity to further her professional goals and begin

her career in epidemiology. She states, “it is my goal as an epidemiologist and public health professional to target minority communities to best understand and combat the health issues they are most plagued by. It is no secret that cardiovascular disease is the largest issue not only in the communities but across the U.S. The training received in this program will allow me to target the largest health issue at hand and study the many issues that stem from it.” Her passion to enhance the field of epidemiology to serve underserved communities will continue to be her motivation.