



Culpeper Branch

Kaleb Hackley
President
admin@naacpculpeper.org

Carol Nelson
Secretary

Jason Ford
Vice President

Joan McBride
Treasurer

For Immediate Release
6.8.26

Contact: Kaleb Hackley
admin@naacpculpeper.org

NAACP Culpeper Awards Three Scholarships

The Culpeper Branch of the NAACP, which also serves Madison and Rappahannock counties, has awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to area high school students.

Jayzmin Smith of Culpeper was awarded the Annie Laura Payne Lovell Memorial Scholarship, named for an educator who taught in the Culpeper County Schools for more than 40 years. Smith is a 2026 graduate of Eastern View High School. She plans to attend Union Commonwealth University in Kentucky and then pursue a law degree.

In awarding the scholarship to Smith, the scholarship committee emphasized her academic achievements and interest in the law profession, along with her commitment to social justice.

Samarion Turner of Madison was awarded the branch's Sadie Ward Crowder Memorial Scholarship. Crowder taught in Madison County for 47 years, beginning in a one-room schoolhouse and ultimately becoming one of the first Black educators to teach in the county's integrated elementary school. Turner is a 2026 graduate of Madison County High School and plans to attend Liberty University.

The scholarship committee stated that they were impressed with Turner's academic achievements and his talents in artistic expression and graphic design. "We regard his goals as an excellent field for accomplishment in the pursuit of social justice."

Shawne Christian of Amisville, a 2026 graduate of Rappahannock High School, is the recipient of the Austin-Green-Williams Memorial Scholarship, named for three prominent Black educators in Rappahannock County. Christian plans to attend Laurel Ridge Community College followed by George Mason University.

“We celebrate Shawne’s academic achievements and are impressed by his commitment to perseverance and effective teamwork,” the judges noted. “We also regard his future goals in forensic science as an excellent field for accomplishment in the pursuit of criminal justice.”

More information on NAACP Culpeper scholarships, including profiles of the educators the scholarships honor, can be found at <https://naacpculpeper.org/for-students/>.

NAACP Culpeper regularly meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm. Meetings are typically held in the Culpeper Business Center on Lovers Lane, where the branch office is located. Meetings are in-person and via Zoom. For meeting links and call-in information, contact admin@naacpculpeper.org. More information on the Culpeper Branch of the NAACP can be found at <https://naacpculpeper.org/>.

Photos: NAACP Culpeper Executive Committee member Rev. Dr. Adrian Sledge presents the Austin-Green-Williams Memorial Scholarship to Shawne Christian.

NAACP Culpeper Vice President Jason Ford presents the Annie Laura Payne Lovell Memorial Scholarship to Jayzmin Smith.