

Chalondra Jewell is a trailblazer. She is used to breaking down barriers and being FIRST.

She was the first Black swim captain at her high school, a first-generation college student attending Albion College and the first student in her congregation to receive a United Methodist Dollars for Scholars (UMDFS) Matching Scholarship.

Chalondra grew up attending Southfield Hope United Methodist Church. Her mom, Contreda Navarro Jewell, is a Certified Lay Speaker in the Michigan Conference. Chalondra has participated in worship as a member of the interpretative dance team, and she has been active with the United Methodist Urban Youth Camp for many years.

After meeting with Albion College's financial aid office, the Jewell family knew a huge opportunity existed for Chalondra to attend a United Methodist related college and multiply a \$1000 award up to \$4000. They decided to inform the church leadership about the grant program and to promote raising money in support of a college scholarship fund that would help Chalondra achieve her dream of a college degree.

The UMDFS program starts with a \$1,000 scholarship from the student's church. The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation, participating UM-related schools, and United Methodist Foundations match this initial scholarship with \$1,000 each. Thus, awards may total up to \$4000.00.

Chalondra received \$1,000 from Southfield Hope UMC and the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan as part of her \$4,000.00 award. Chalondra is majoring in Computer Science and is a member of the swim team at Albion College. This scholarship is making it possible for Chalondra to succeed and continue her trail blazing.

The Rev. Dr. David Bell, President and Executive Director of the Foundation, commented, "We are delighted to continue our participation in the UM Dollars for Scholars awards. As a recipient nearly 35 years ago, I know firsthand the impact that this scholarship can make on a student. Our partnership with the highly respected UMHEF aims to make it financially possible for qualified students to attend UM-related institutions of higher education."

UMHEF can help your church be successful in supporting students aiming for UM-related higher education. They will provide custom announcement suggestions, worship slides, and bulletin inserts for your UMDFS fundraising efforts. Check out their resources at UMHEF.org.

Keep this amazing scholarship opportunity in mind when planning your 2024 budget. Together we can make a difference!

Marian Coles, Sr. Director of Operations.

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