



# THE B<sup>2</sup> LEGACY

*"I will NOT let you be average." B<sup>2</sup>*

BKB FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT

## BKB Foundation College Connection Trips

College Connection Partners – Duke University and Johns Hopkins University

One of Brian's passions was taking his middle school students to his alma mater – UNC Greensboro. He wanted his students to believe that they, too, could go to college. He started the "College Connection" initiative in the mid-2000's. It started as a cheerleading trip for his team at Neelsville and evolved from that point to include attending classes with student-athletes, having meals in the dining hall with other college students, meeting with an admissions officer and attending an athletic game. This trip is a chance for 7th and 8th graders to experience life on a college campus. The BKB Foundation is continually growing this particular initiative and we are now taking two trips a year – one to Duke University and one to Johns Hopkins University.



*Shaw and Hart Students watching Duke Women's Basketball Game (2013)*



*Shaw and Hart Students at Duke University (2013)*



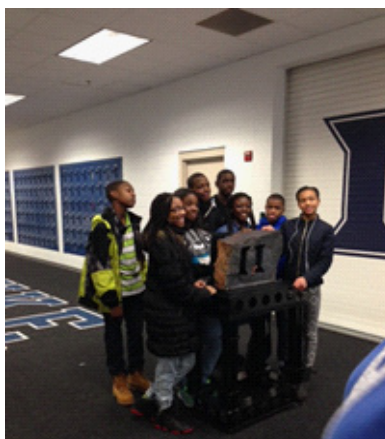
*Hart Students in the Legacy Room at Duke (2014)*



*Hart Students with Jacki Silar, Senior Associate Director of Athletics/SWA Duke University (2014)*



*Loiederma Students at Johns Hopkins University (2015)*



*Hart Students pictured with Duke Granite Logo (2015)*



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**2015 Recipients**



**Dede Gaba**  
Watkins Mill High School, Gaithersburg, MD

Dede is a freshman at Towson University and her college experience has been great so far. Her classes are going well and she's looking forward to the rest of her freshman year. The BKB Scholarship helped her pay for a portion of her tuition and fees at Towson.



**Kenneth Miller**  
Stonewall Jackson High School, Manassas, VA

Kenneth is a freshman at Virginia Tech. He loves his classes and is excelling in all of them. He states the BKB Scholarship allowed him to join a specialty dorm focused on leadership which has opened many opportunities for him at Virginia Tech.

**2014 Recipients**



**Jerica Skees**  
Watkins Mill High School, Gaithersburg, MD

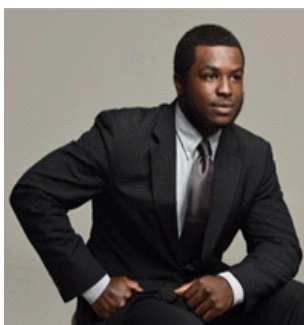
Jerica is a sophomore BA Studio 2-D major at Salisbury University. She is doing well in college and says her college experience is a great one.



**Alexis Jones**  
Stonewall Jackson High School, Manassas, VA

Alexis is a sophomore and an Interdisciplinary Studies major, Early Elementary Education minor under the College of Education at Virginia State University. She is currently the Vice President of the Student Education Association (SEA) on campus and also a member of the VSU Gospel Choir. She does all this while maintaining a 3.0 GPA. She states the BKB Scholarship helped her tremendously as it went towards her school expenses for her freshman year.

**2013 Recipients**



**Christian Carter - Dunbar High School, Washington, DC Renewable Scholarship (Interview on Page 3)**



**Niki Ewell - Stonewall Jackson High School, Manassas, VA Renewable Scholarship (Interview on Page 3)**

### **Interview with Christian Carter**

Christian Carter, one of the first BKB Scholarship winners, enters his junior year at Sacred Heart University with gratitude inspired by Brian Betts. Christian was one of Brian's students during his middle school years who recalls how Brian emphasized the importance of social service and giving back to the community.

Christian's studies focus primarily on Broadcast Journalism and Public Relations as he majors in Communications. He recently published two articles for the university newspaper and is one of the key members of the multimedia team that produces "The Pulse" at Sacred Heart.

Over the summer, Christian served as an intern for the Kreegar Museum in Georgetown working under the auspices of the Urban Alliance Foundation. His primary project, "Yoga on the Lawn" combined Christian's interest in physical well-being with the beauty of art providing a setting filled with modern sculpture to inspire the audience. He is currently seeking a full credit internship this fall semester as a PR intern.

While juggling his academic requirements, he serves as the Recruitment co-chair and the Social Media Chair of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., participates in the University's Public Relations Club, serves on the staff of SHUBox TV at Sacred Heart, and still works out daily.

Christian appreciates the BKB Scholarship as it was one of the key financial resources to fund attending a prestigious academic institution. He applies the drive to learning from his tenure under Brian and looks forward to a bright future.

### **Interview with Nikia Ewell**

Nikia Ewell, the first BKB Scholarship winner from Brian's high school alma mater, enters her third year at the University of Virginia. Since Nikia never met Brian Betts, she completed some research about his career and is inspired to apply his successes to her career path as a teacher.

Nikia declared her major as Sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences to better understand how children are affected by the imprinting of families. She will also pursue her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from UVA's Curry School of Education.

Nikia currently works for America Reads, a project that focuses on literacy skills and word comprehension competency for elementary school students. Nikia is matched with two second grade

students in Charlottesville and is utilizing the insights from her tutoring to shape her teaching style.

While juggling her academic requirements, Nikia volunteers for Youth Inspire, a program at the UVA Children's Hospital, which assists long-term clients with activities of daily living. She serves on the planning committee designing educational events for children with a wide range of topics from the value of hand sanitizer to ensuring safety at a swimming pool.

Nikia appreciates the BKB Scholarship because it is rooted in the values of education and pursuing a career in teaching. Brian would be thrilled to know of her academic goals and her service activities to children in Charlottesville.

### **BOWLING FOR STUDENTS IN CHICAGO**

On Thursday, July 9th, Vinny Cousineau bowled at Timber Lanes in Chicago with friend and softball teammate, Carlos Mercado, as part of the Bowling for Students Fundraiser. A close friend and former bowling teammate of Brian Betts, Vinny couldn't participate on the original date due to teaching duties in Chicago, but he committed to raising funds for the cause once summer arrived and his schedule eased up. Some of his friends and family members pledged a flat amount, while others got creative, offering certain amounts per strike or per pin. Vinny's husband, Larry Todd Cousineau, knowing that Vinny hadn't bowled in years, balanced the scales by pledging \$5.00 per open frame. Meanwhile, his bowling mate, Carlos Mercado, based his personal donation on his own strikes and spares in order to inspire himself to bowl well. Special thanks to Alex Benjamin, who offered a per-pin pledge thinking it would be for one game, but still honored his pledge for all three games and donated a significant amount to the foundation! In the end, Vinny and Carlos bowled three games each for a combined 897 pins and 20 strikes and, they raised approximately \$1,000 for the foundation.

Thank you, Vinny, Carlos and all who supported you to raise funds for the BKB Foundation. We appreciate it very much!!

### **Upcoming Events**

College Connection Trip to Duke University – February 2016  
College Connection Trip to Johns Hopkins University – April 13, 2016  
Scholarship Presentations (Stonewall and Watkins Mill High Schools) – May/June 2016  
Bowling for Students Fundraiser - Spring/Summer 2016 (multiple locations: Virginia, Maryland, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Chicago, North Carolina and more).

## Holiday Message

All of us here at the BKB Foundation would like to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Holiday Season. As 2015 comes to a close, please consider an end-of-the-year donation to the Brian K. Betts Foundation for Educational Enrichment. We are so thankful for all the support we have received in the past. Your continued support will help the Foundation provide more scholarships, college connection trips and other educational programs. May your new year be filled with lots of love, happiness, good health and peace.

The Betts Family

## Donate Today!

BKB Foundation proudly recognizes Insight Education Group as a Foundation Sponsor



[www.InsightEducationGroup.com](http://www.InsightEducationGroup.com)

### DONATION PROCESS

The Brian K. Betts Foundation for Educational Enrichment strives to help students further their education and become successful in all aspects of their lives. We do this through scholarships, college connection trips and other educational programs to benefit students. Donations and support from individuals and sponsors help us accomplish this goal.

Donations in the form of checks should be made payable to BKB Foundation/CFNCR and mailed to:  
CFNCR  
1201 15th St. NW Suite 420  
Washington, DC 20005

Donations may also be made by credit card. Visit [www.cfnr.org](http://www.cfnr.org) and the BKB Foundation name can be found in the drop-down menu of choices (there is an additional fee for credit cards).



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**I WANT TO HELP THE STUDENTS!! Here is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT US**

\_\_\_\_\_

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**E-mail Address**

Brian K. Betts Foundation for Educational  
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*Note: If you do not wish to receive further information from The B<sup>2</sup> Legacy, please send an e-mail to [doris@bkbfoundation.org](mailto:doris@bkbfoundation.org).*