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Point Foundation Announces Inaugural Class of Recipients of New BIPOC LGBTQ Scholarship Fund

With support from Jason Collins, Katy Perry, and others, a new fund dedicated to LGBTQ students who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color will provide a first round of scholarships to 24 students

LOS ANGELES (Feb. 23, 2021)--Today, Point Foundation (Point), the nation's largest scholarship granting organization for LGBTQ students, announced its first class of scholarship recipients for the BIPOC LGBTQ Scholarship Fund, a program devoted to supporting LGBTQ students who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

"Point Foundation has always been committed to supporting diverse LGBTQ students and we are thrilled to deepen and broaden this commitment by creating a new scholarship fund dedicated to BIPOC students," said **Jorge Valencia, Point Foundation Executive Director and CEO**. "Our inaugural class of scholars is an inspiring testament to the resilience and strength of BIPOC LGBTQ communities. These students already bring incredible accomplishments to the table and we are proud to support them in their commitment to earning their degrees."

Generations of racism and an education system born from discriminatory policies mean that BIPOC students face greater obstacles to educational achievement. When these challenges are combined with those faced by students who also identify as LGBTQ, the impediments can make a higher education degree seem impossible. The BIPOC LGBTQ Scholarship Fund aims to mitigate these issues by providing financial support, coaching resources, and leadership development.

Point has long supported BIPOC LGBTQ students. Prior to the launch of the new BIPOC LGBTQ Scholarship Fund, the majority (71%) of scholarship recipients from Point's 2020 scholarship programs identified as Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

"I'm so excited to be a part of this group of talented scholars," said **scholarship recipient Teddy Onditi**. "I know this scholarship and new support system will help me navigate the barriers that often block BIPOC LGBTQ students like me from education opportunities. I was worried that finances would stand in the way of my graduation, so it's a huge relief to be able to focus on my studies this year."

24 BIPOC LGBTQ Scholars were selected from a pool of hundreds of applicants; they will join 134 current scholarship recipients in the broader Point network. Each student will receive a grant for costs associated with tuition and other education-related expenses.

“Point Foundation’s BIPOC scholarship allows for young queer people of color to make their academic dreams a reality,” said **Jason Collins, the first openly gay NBA player and a Point Foundation Honorary Board member.** “When you give young people a chance, you open the door for infinite possibilities.”

A complete list of scholarship recipients appears below, and bios for each are available on Point’s website, www.pointfoundation.org/meet.

Notable facts about the 2021 BIPOC LGBTQ Scholarship recipients

- 46% of recipients are Black/African American
- 8% of recipients are Indigenous/Native American
- 21% of recipients are multiracial
- 8% of recipients are Latinx/Hispanic
- 17% of recipients are Asian/Pacific Islander American
- 42% of recipients are transgender or non-binary

Community College Scholars

- Vic Latimer, Inver Hills College
- Peter Pham, De Anza College
- Gabriel Rasheed, Austin Community College
- Kia Session, Mountain View College
- Tiana Tran, Lone Star College: University Park

Undergraduate Scholars

- Emmanuel Barrow, Bowie State University
- Elizabeth Braatz, Western Oregon University
- Chase Breaux, Wabash College
- Kimberly Elias Castellanos, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Autumn Jeoboam, Florida Atlantic University
- Khouri Lassiter, Towson University
- Jo Lew, Southern Methodist University
- Kaylin Moss, Marist College
- Isio Oguni, University of Texas at Austin
- Teddy Onditi, California State University Long Beach
- Genesis Perez, California State University Northridge
- Astro Pittman, Seattle Central College
- Danyal Rizvi, Texas Tech University

Graduate School Scholars

- Rie Harding, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Eileen Jimenez, University of Washington, Tacoma - Muckleshoot Tribal College
- Ari Luna, Texas State University
- Charlesia McKinney, University of Kansas
- Willow Tomeo, Southwestern College
- Pa'Shence Young, University of Oklahoma

The launch of the BIPOC LGBTQ Scholarship Fund is made possible with support from [DTS](#), **Katy Perry, MacKenzie Scott, Unruly Hearts Initiative** and **Wells Fargo**.

About Point Foundation

Point Foundation empowers promising LGBTQ students to achieve their full academic and leadership potential – despite the obstacles often put before them – to make a significant impact on society. Since 2001, Point has awarded more than 500 scholarships, making it the nation's largest scholarship-granting organization for LGBTQ students of merit. Point Foundation promotes change through scholarship funding, mentorship, leadership development and community service training. www.pointfoundation.org