

## A NOTE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

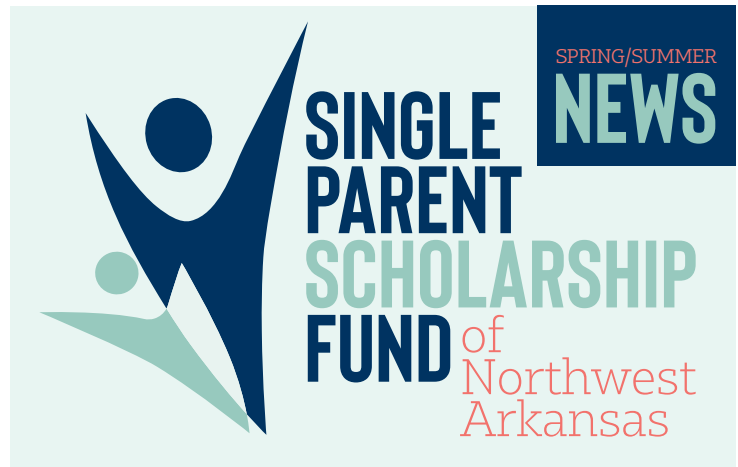
*Tyler B. Clark*

Even though the weather hasn't quite felt like spring, we know it is around the corner with summer following close behind. The start of the summer semester will kick off with 66 recipients returning to school to elevate their families' lives.

As you read on in this latest edition of the newsletter, you'll see how busy our recipients, board, and staff have been. We hosted the Distinguished Scholars Brunch, Graduation Celebration for Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022 and Summer 2022 graduates, and much more.

I recently reported to our endowed and longtime investment donors that the financial state of our scholarship fund continues to be solid. I want to assure you that we are continuing to meet our region's need for scholarships and supportive services as the number of single parent households continues to climb. The Pathway to Prosperity Endowment Campaign and the Marjorie Marugg-Wolfe Sustainability Campaign were developed to maintain the longevity of our organization. With the merging of SPSFNWA (serving Carroll, Madison, and Washington County) and SPSF Benton County in July 2021, the corpus of the endowment has increased and so has the return on our total investments.

This success places SPSFNWA in a position to preserve a lifelong endowment that will benefit many generations to come. For the third year in a row, SPSFNWA was certified platinum transparency, an accomplishment that only 17% of the nation's non-profits hold.



We have three new faces joining the SPSFNWA Team. Kassie Taylor as our new Annual Fund and Grants Manager, Tacuma Williams as a new at-large board member and Tucker Moretta as our counseling intern. They all bring a great deal of experience to our organization.

One final exciting announcement: SPSFNWA was selected to participate in TRU powered by Engage. Our new cohort will be "RECHARGE" which engages non-profits that have been actively doing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work and are seeking ways to deepen and broaden their impact.

My very best,



Staff at the recent  
Distinguished Scholars Brunch

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Chair  
Randy Werner  
Board Vice Chair  
Brian Wood  
Board Treasurer  
Johnice Glisson  
Board Secretary

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Brad Crain  
Brittney Duke  
LaDeana Duncan  
Mary Heman  
Brittany Little  
Felicia McCranie  
Rhonda Moore

Shannon Ortego  
Craig Overton  
Carolyn Rodeffer  
Mary Schneider  
Anthony Sumlin  
Judge John Threet  
Wendy Soderquist Togami  
Tacuma Williams

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS  
Ruth Collier  
Doris Cordes

## IN THIS ISSUE

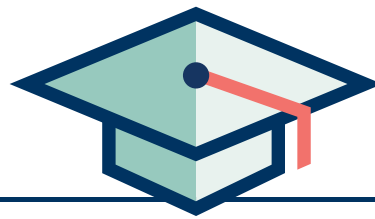
- 2 Distinguished Scholars
- 2 New Staff & Board
- 3 Spark of Hope
- 4 Graduation Celebration



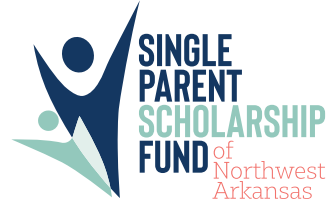


## CARROLL BENTLEY GOES TO MEDICAL SCHOOL

Carroll is graduating from the University of Arkansas this Spring and his major is Psychology with a pre-med concentration. He will start at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine in July and hopes to focus on Rural Medicine. He has received the SPSFNWA scholarship 14 times, and has received the Gene and Susan Anderson Endowed Scholarship since 2017.



# DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS BRUNCH



SPONSORED BY  **BOK FINANCIAL**

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, we hosted our Annual Distinguished Scholars Brunch at the Fayetteville Public Library. 72 named scholarships were awarded to exemplary recipients in the program.

|                  |                    |                    |                     |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Kelsie Alexander | Sara Edgerton      | Dana Lampkin       | Melissa Sanchez     |
| Hillary Bell     | Katie Elder        | Alicia Lindo       | Elizabeth Sandefur  |
| Chelsea Baldus   | Dominique Espinosa | Lisa Luhrs         | Jennifer Schwyhart  |
| Alexis Beasley   | Brittany Frischman | Alicia Mar         | Ashleigh Severson   |
| Carroll Bentley  | Christine Gitumbi  | Vanessa Martinez   | Katie Smith         |
| Tiffany Binam    | Jennifer Godard    | Summer Mayes       | Whitney Smyth       |
| Erin Blackwell   | Mayra Gollas       | Brittany McCormick | Selena Soto         |
| Mattie Boyett    | Carmen Gonzalez    | Kimberly McCoy     | Kimberly Stevens    |
| Katarina Bunner  | Candace Gonzalez   | Berenice Melchor   | Abigail Stiedle     |
| Candice Burson   | Ausha Griffin      | Ariel Mincke       | Shirley 'Kay' Stout |
| Rachael Burton   | Jennifer Helinski  | Melissa Morgan     | Daisy Teodoro       |
| Kathryn Carter   | Shannon Hensley    | Samantha Morris    | Jacquelyn Troy      |
| Crystal Casey    | Samantha Hodge     | Stephanie Mounce   | Risa Uhl            |
| Kimberly Charles | Katie Hooper       | Stacy Odorowski    | CJ Valenzuela       |
| Lex Coble        | Halee Jackson      | Rachael Phillips   | Cassie Watkins      |
| Scott Crittenden | Ashley Jonasson    | Cassie Riddick     | Rana Weidman        |
| Stephanie Djimbi | Gloria Juarez      | Elizabeth Roman    | Hollie Wentz        |
| Amber Earley     | Brianne Key        | Jennifer Rose      | Sarah Womack        |

## WELCOME TO THE SPSFNWA FAMILY

### KASSIE TAYLOR, CFRE SPSFNWA Annual Fund & Grants Manager

Kassie recently joined the SPSFNWA team as the Annual Fund & Grants Manager. A graduate of Little Rock Central High School and Rhodes College in Memphis, Kassie brings over 15 years of fundraising experience to the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of NWA. Kassie has been married to Al Taylor for 30 years and they have three children. She and Al are avid Razorback fans as well as members of the University of Arkansas Road Hogs and the Razorback Foundation. It doesn't matter the sport – the Taylors are typically there calling the Hogs with gusto.



### JOSEPH "TUCKER" MORETTA SPSFNWA Counseling Intern

**PROGRAM AND SCHOOL:** MS in Counseling at the University of Arkansas

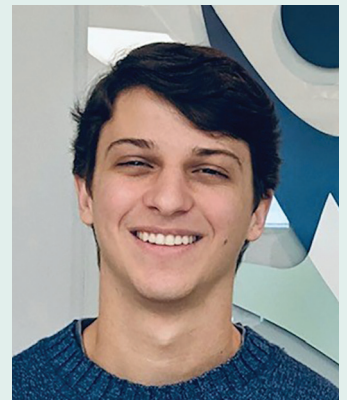
**GRADUATION DATE:** May 2023

**HOMETOWN:** Gainesville, Florida

**DEGREE:** B.S. in Psychology at the University of Florida in 2019 (minor in Family, Youth, and Community Sciences)

**WHY ARKANSAS?:** He applied to multiple counseling programs across the U.S. and chose University of Arkansas because he ended up enjoying Northwest Arkansas and University of Arkansas's program more than any others.

**WHY SPSFNWA?:** "I grew up in a single parent household with my mother and my sister. I imagine an organization like SPSFNWA could have assisted in many of the struggles my family dealt with [when I was] growing up." His future plans are to pursue a PhD after graduation.



# SPARK OF HOPE



## THE 2022 SPARK OF HOPE AWARDS ARE BEING PRESENTED TO:

Outstanding  
Individuals:  
**Denton and  
Cathy Cole Seilhan**



Outstanding  
Corporation:  
**Arvest Bank,  
Benton County**



Outstanding  
Community Partner:  
**Adventure  
Subaru**



**Spark of Hope will be held July 28 at 6pm  
at the Rogers Convention Center.**

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Steven Hinds at [steven@spsfnwa.org](mailto:steven@spsfnwa.org) or 479.254.8550 ext. 103.

### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

#### SPONSORS

As of April 20, 2022



GREENWOOD GEARHART

### CUM LAUDE



#### DEAN'S LIST



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STAR MECHANICAL SUPPLY



#### GRADUATE



MILLER | BUTLER  
SCHNEIDER | PAWLICK | ROZZELL



#### TABLE SPONSOR



### TACUMA WILLIAMS

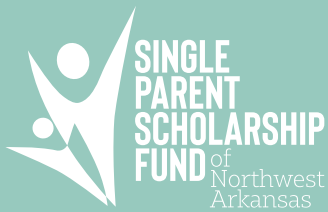
SPSFNWA Board Member

Tacuma was born in San Jose, California, but spent most of his childhood in Colorado Springs, Colorado. From a very young age elders instilled in him personal pride and understanding of his culture, equality for all, and selfless service to something larger than himself. He began his work on this path in high school, as a sophomore he went on a Christian mission to Australia. His ability to influence and inspire kids that he had never met before and bring them to the faith is something that would lead him (almost directly) to what he is doing now. His next opportunity to serve came after he graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Tacuma served his country in the military for five years and was able to support and serve hundreds of

soldiers and their families. When he left the military, he worked in production and sales, but never gave up his passion to bring a change to the lives of children. That led to him being a full-time coach and teacher. This year marks his 17th year in education, and he still loves what he does every day! He gets to change kids lives for the better and can not think of a more noble cause. Tacuma currently serves as the assistant principal at Bentonville West High School, GO WOLVERINES! What he loves about being on the board at SPSFNWA is how he can be part of helping entire families achieve their goals and dreams. In his profession, he has seen the success and struggles of so many single parent households, he knows the positive impact in organization like SPSFNWA can have. "I am honored to serve, and I CAN'T WAIT to make a difference!"







## STAFF

**Tyler B. Clark**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Shannon Campbell**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Carrie Miller, GCDF, CCSP**  
Chief Program Officer

**Frankie Rankin, CFRE**  
Chief Philanthropy Officer

**Krystle Goodwin, CCSP**  
Communications & Marketing Director

**Steven R. Hinds, M.Ed.**  
Senior Director of Corporate Giving

**Renee' Hutton**  
Executive Administration & Finance Manager

**Kassie Taylor, CFRE**  
Annual Fund & Grants Manager

**Twyla Rownak**  
Director of Counseling Services

**Sara Stripling, MFA**  
Development & Program Manager

**Katlyn Taylor, CCSP**  
Program Director:  
Benton/Carroll County

**Gina Johns, CCSP**  
Program Director:  
Washington/Madison County

479-254-8550

SPSFNWA.ORG

@SPSFNWA



Platinum  
Transparency  
2022

Candid.

## GRADUATION CELEBRATION

On April 19th donors, volunteers, and staff celebrated 52 graduates from the SPSFNWA program! Graduates and their families were invited to celebrate their successes at the SPSFNWA office. All graduates were given a special gift from the program as well as a professional headshot to use for their future journey.



## ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

In January, the counseling department launched a new program called The Encouragement Group as a way to facilitate connections between current recipients and alumni. The group of around 13 meets the first Monday of each month for dinner (provided by alumni) and to work through the Rising Strong™ curriculum that was developed by Dr. Brene' Brown. As one of the few Certified Daring Way™ facilitators in the state, our counseling director, Twyla, is guiding the group through this well-researched approach to "rising strong after a fall" and encouraging participants to challenge each other to continue to reshape how their families connect and build healthy patterns.

WHEN WE DENY OUR  
STORIES, THEY DEFINE US.  
WHEN WE OWN OUR  
STORIES, WE GET TO  
WRITE THE ENDING.

- BRENE' BROWN

