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# **WRITE A NEW CHAPTER IN YOUR LIFE**



Leia Agnew Hill

The people who know me best would agree that my "love languages" are gifts and acts of service. I thrive on the spirit of giving and those special ways people touch the lives of one another. The Christmas season is always a special time to reflect on the kindness and generosity of others. In addition to the things we normally think about, it is a time to consider the generations of people who have shared their resources with Meridian Community College. The stories are amazing and the lifelong impacts are even better. It really is incredible.

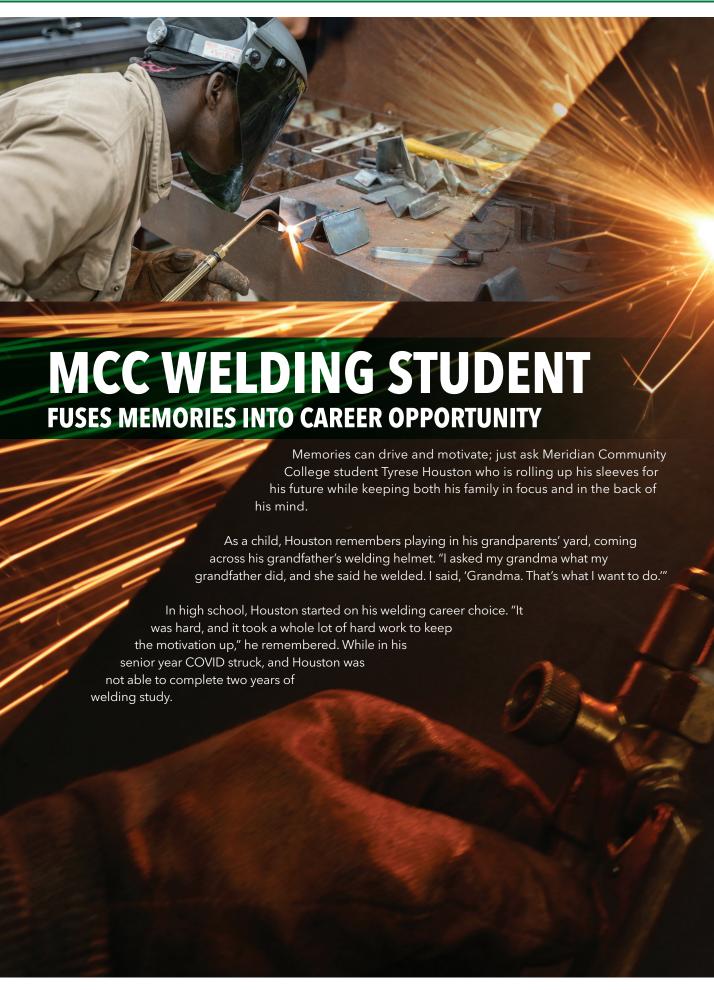
Once we put away the tree and the ornaments and transition past the holidays to step foot into 2022, the new year becomes a special time as well. Not only can we evaluate the events of the previous year, but we can also think about the future with a fresh perspective. January reminds us that we're not bound by the past because tomorrow is full of hope and optimism. For those of us in education, it's the start of a new semester. We tell students that college is their chance to turn a page and write a new chapter in life. And sometimes that new chapter starts with the new semester.

The whole process of starting over just might be what I love most about my job. Because of those who share their resources, I get a front-row seat to watch countless students turn life's page and begin to write the story that will often redefine who they are.

## You may have noticed that this magazine looks different than what you've seen in the past. That's because it is!

We have decided to dedicate the January issue to those who have shared their resources, big and small, so that doors can open, opportunities can be present, and success can find a home.

I sincerely hope 2022 is wonderful and prosperous for you. In spite of the challenges associated with the pandemic, we are blessed. I am thankful for the support we have and look forward to an exciting New Year!



"When I graduated, I thought I deserved a chance to weld, so I went off to find another place to live and try to go and complete the dream," he said. He found a position in another town, but it didn't work. "But I never gave up hope," he said.

That's when he looked toward home. "I started thinking to myself what I wanted to do."

After talking to others, Houston was led to MCC. He began in August in the College's Welding and Cutting Technology Program, which prepares students for entry-level positions in the field. They learn how to use an arc welder, oxyacetylene torch, and plasma arc cutter and also gain skills in blueprint reading, welding metallurgy, and welding theory.

"It's been a good experience," Houston said.

Others have noticed his drive and determination. Houston received the William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship, which is funded through the MCC Foundation. "This is a new experience for me, and it will help," he said of receiving the scholarship which will help cover his housing and meal expenses.

Gina Mills, MCC's special populations coordinator, explained that Houston is a model of dedication and determination in his drive to succeed. She said earlier in the semester, Houston would catch a ride to the College where he was dropped off at 5 a.m. Classes didn't start until 7 a.m. so he would wait.

"He has never given up even though the obstacles have been there - no transportation, having to walk everywhere," Mills said.

"Tyrese wants to go above and beyond. Every Friday, he asks if the shop is open because he wants to practice. He'd rather be in school than take a day off," she said.

Eric Jones, MCC Welding and Cutting Technology Program coordinator and instructor, complimented Houston's work. "Everything we ask him to do, he jumps right in and gives it a shot. He has done very well to this point with the hands-on project," Jones said.

"He has a strong drive to succeed and wants to make sure he does everything correctly," Jones added.

Houston wants to continue with his passion when graduating in May, perhaps doing underwater welding for the Marines.

Still, he keeps his family in mind. He'll give his son a welding hat. "I did put my welding gloves on his hands to show him what his father is doing."



Tyrese Houston, left, and Gina Mills



## **CAMERON BOGGAN CLASS FAVORITE, DETERMINED PROFESSIONAL**

Meridian Community College Lead Paramedic Instructor Ben White described his student Cameron Boggan simply: "Cameron. WOW."

Boggan, 23, of Lena, died on March 21, 2021. He is survived by his parents, Greg and Renee Boggan; brother Connor Boggan; and grandmothers Ann Boggan and Phyllis Cain.

Boggan was an emergency medical technician (EMT) for CareMed emergency medical service in Newton County while attending paramedic school at MCC. White noted Boggan was an excellent student, commenting "He was that student that was going to do what you asked."

A class favorite and an honors student, Boggan attempted to make a personal connection with every student in class, White said.

"He never met a stranger. I honestly think Cameron could start up a conversation with any random person that walked in the classroom. His smile and demeanor were contagious. He always greeted you with a smile."

His determination toward his career was steadfast. "Cameron's main goal of becoming a paramedic was to make a difference in someone's life, even if it was just one person's life," White added.

Boggan had worked for CareMed since the first day the company served Newton County, and he made the first call the company answered. In 2020, the Newton County CareMed selected him for the honor of MVP EMT.



Ben White, Greg and Renee Boggan

"Cameron was truly a unique person. All around, he was a great young man," White said.

## THE CAMERON SCOTT BOGGAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Cameron Scott Boggan Memorial Scholarship, funded through The MCC Foundation, will be awarded to a paramedic student who has a 3.0 or higher grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). The scholarship is \$1,000 per year.

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## **FOUNDATION SALUTES LIFETIME GIVERS**

The MCC Foundation celebrated a lifetime of giving when it hosted its annual membership gathering at Northwood Country Club on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Hundreds joined in the special event that took on a new look in recognizing individuals and groups for their cumulative contributions to the College. Throughout the years, donors have given lifechanging dollars to make a true impact on the lives of students who have come through the College's doors. Lifetime gifts of \$25,000 or more qualify givers for membership in the "1937 Society." The College began operating in 1937.

**Lifetime giving levels** were categorized as the **Emerald Circle**, \$1 million-plus; **Platinum Wings**, \$250,001-\$999,999; **Gold Wings**, \$100,001 to \$250,000; **Silver Wings**, \$50,001-\$100,000, and **Bronze Wings**, \$25,000-\$50,000.

"It's been really incredible to see the commitment of our givers," said Leia Hill, vice president for Institutional Advancement and the executive director of the MCC Foundation. "Their gifts have been truly transformative, and we thank them for their faithfulness." **Emerald Circle givers** include David Quave, Rush Health Systems, Structural Steel Services, The Phil Hardin Foundation, and The Riley Foundation.

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giving level include Anderson Regional Health System, Marty and Linda Davidson, Earnest Workers Circle King's Daughters & Sons Rest Home Foundation, Ann and Eddie Holladay, Clay and Laura Holladay, Kim Gianakos, Gene Haas Foundation, Hardy Graham, Sr., J. Robert and Gloria Malone, Dudley Maples/Maples Gas Co., Inc., Emma McCain Trust, and The Paul Broadhead Foundation.

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5 ways to Give to the MCC Foundation



### PRESIDENT'S **ROUNDTABLE**

PRT is composed of businesses and individuals who have made a commitment to support MCC's **Tuition Guarantee** program.

## ANNUAL **GIVING FUND**

The Annual Giving Fund consists of gifts from individuals who have an interest in supporting the College through scholarships, program support, or unrestricted funds.

### **MEMORIALS & HONORARIA**

Donations are accepted as memorials and as living tributes. Acknowledgments are made using cards depicting a scene from campus.

### **ENDOWMENTS**

Long-term investment options for those who want to establish a legacy gift. Once endowment is complete it is never breached, creating a never-ending source for scholarships and awards.

### PLANNED **GIVING**

Bequests, Insurance, Annuities and Trusts that list the MCC Foundation as the beneficiary.

**LEVELS** 

## For online donations visit: meridiancc.edu/give

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PATRON \$125-\$299 **GRAND** PATRON

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SPONSOR'S CIRCLE \$2000-\$2,999

LEADER'S \$3.000-\$4.999

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE \$5,000 or more

## **JOIN OTHER ALUMS**



The best things in life are free - and that includes becoming a member of MCC's Alumni Association.

Theresa Hogan, scholarship and alumni relations coordinator, said there are no fees to join the association. The membership benefits are plentiful, including being informed of College events, networking with other alumni, and advocating for an institution that provides quality education.

Alums can go to:

meridiancc.edu/alumniassociation

to join. There's also a social media channel by going to: facebook.com/groups/mccalumniassociation.

For details, contact Hogan at MCC at 601.484.8841.

For more information visit: meridiancc.edu/alumniassociation



# THANK YOU FROM OUR **STUDENTS**

"You don't know how much this means to me. I am very grateful for this scholarship. This is actually my first scholarship, and I thank God that He made a way for me. This scholarship will help me achieve my goals and my dream career." - Viskiyya

"I believe this scholarship will aid with more than just my education. It will open many doors for me in the future." - Riley

This motivates me to continue to do well in school and to work toward my goals. It is always good to know that there's someone out there watching and supporting individuals who are trying so hard." -Tiara

"I love helping people, solving things, and making things better. I want to thank you for the financial support toward my higher education." - Chasmine

"Receiving this scholarship has given me the confidence to continue trying my best in school even when I feel discouraged. I am beyond grateful to receive this scholarship." - Ashley

"While I attend nursing school, I am also working full-time to support my family and pay for this program. This scholarship has lifted some of the financial burdens we face, and I am extremely thankful for receiving this scholarship. You have changed not only my life but also my family's life." - Eric

"Thank you for your generosity; because of you I will be able

to continue my education and chase my dreams. I do not take any of this for granted, and one day I hope to give back to

others as you have done for me." - Tavaris

"I understand that this is not free money and does indeed cost you something. Thank you for choosing to invest in my future. I will not take this for granted." - Jaylen

"Opportunities and blessings such as this generous scholarship fuel my drive more than you know." - Camille

## **FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS**



## **FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FALL 2021 RECIPIENTS**



## **DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK**

#### Katie Culpepper

Cecil Adkins Memorial Scholarship

#### **Jaden Dominy**

Ida Mae James Alexander Memorial Scholarship

#### **Mallie Hudson**

Alumni and Friends Scholarship

#### **Gabrielle Jones**

Anderson Board of Directors Scholarship

#### **Haley Groves**

Anderson Support and Development Foundation Scholarship

#### **James Stephens**

Anderson Support and Development Foundation Scholarship

#### **Kennedy Woodard**

Dr. William Jeff Anderson Memorial Scholarship

#### Zetra Alonso

Dr. William J. Anderson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

#### **Eugenia Norton**

Dr. William J. Anderson, III Memorial Scholarship

#### **Ethan Johnson**

Charles Armstrong Scholarship

#### Allyn McCary

Bill Autry Memorial Tennis Scholarship

#### **Henry Anderson**

Laurie M. Autry Memorial Scholarship

#### **Matthew Bowling**

C. B. Bailey Memorial Scholarship

#### Kayla Wooten

Beverly Barham Memorial Scholarship

#### **Chasmine Nicholson**

Leonard Corydon Barrell Family Scholarship

#### **Cohen Hurst**

Sallie Mae Bell Memorial Scholarship

#### **April Miles**

Anna Munn Bennett Memorial Scholarship

#### **Robin Bateman**

Cameron Scott Boggan Memorial Scholarship

#### **Lanie Crawford**

Dr. George W. and Ettamac Bounds, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

#### **Lakelyn Graham**

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

#### **Hannah Hollingsworth**

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

#### **Jacob Smith**

Thomas and Norma Bourdeaux Scholarship

#### **Parker Berry**

Harry & Vivian Boureau Music Scholarship

#### **Cynthia Jordan**

Susan Partridge Boyette Memorial Scholarship

#### **Noah Hatcher**

Gloria Blackshear Brown High School Equivalency Scholarship

#### Logan Copeland

Keli Breanne Brown Memorial Scholarship

#### Hannah McPherson

Madeline Scott Callahan Memorial Scholarship

#### Jayla Osborne

Cater's Market Culinary Scholarship

#### Anissa Green

Mark Chandler Memorial Scholarship

#### **Megan Oliver**

Alta and Ivan Chisolm Memorial Scholarship

#### **Jayla Smith**

A. C. Johnson/Civitan Scholarship

#### **Lamyricle Goodwin**

Chuck Nicholson/Community Bank Veteran Scholarship

#### **Rachel Thaggard**

Emma Ruth Corban Scholarship

#### **Jacob Vance**

Courtyard of Scholars Scholarship

### **Randarius Hughes**

Linda and Marty Davidson Scholarship

#### Eli Mabry

Clifton "Buddy" Davis Memorial Scholarship

#### **Daniel Bihn**

L. J. Davis and Winifred Davis Memorial Scholarship

#### **Calandria Coleman**

Toni L. DeVaney Memorial Scholarship

#### **Madison Moore**

DHUGG Scholarship

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Future Nurses Scholarship

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Future Nurses Scholarship

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#### **Alec Sparks**

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Kimberly Renata Govan Scholarship

#### **Harleigh Barham**

Dottye and Hardy Graham, Sr. Scholarship

#### **Kimberly Sanders**

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#### **JaBazz White**

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#### **Shameka Mitchell**

Shirley Griffin Nursing Scholarship

#### **Melissa Williamson**

Shirley Griffin Nursing Scholarship

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#### Michelle Eakes

Debbie Gunn Memorial Scholarship

#### **Cineka Evans**

William Gunn, Esquire Memorial Scholarship

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#### **Michael Bishop**

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#### **Lane Davis**

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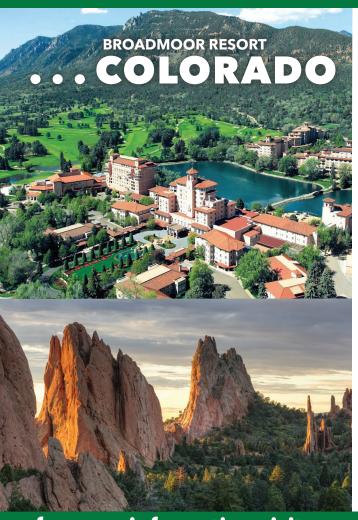
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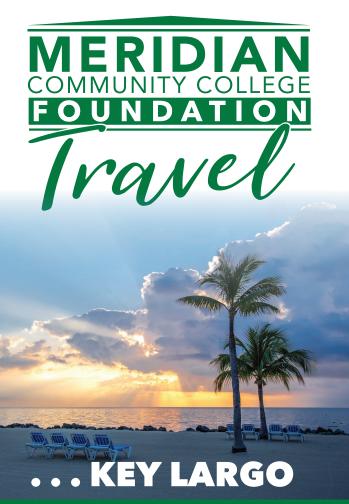
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