

FRIENDSHIP TECHNOLOGY PREPARATORY ACADEMY



NINTH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 | 1 P.M.
AUDI FIELD & FRIENDSHIP VIRTUAL AUDITORIUM

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Congratulations Class of 2023

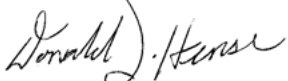
Year after year, I watch our impressive graduates walk across the stage with proud, beaming smiles to receive the diplomas that you have justly earned. The opportunity to present these diplomas is a highlight of the year for me, your teachers, your families, and the Board of Trustees of Friendship Public Charter School.

This is a moment brimming over with opportunity. Your next steps will require more of you – more effort, more creativity, and more leadership. But you will persevere because you have persevered and you will succeed because, as this special day acknowledges, you have succeeded!

The day will come some years in the future when you say that you were part of the historic class of 2023. It will happen as part of the recognition as to how the world had to adjust to a pandemic, to tragedy, and to unrest. And you will be among those celebrated as the ones who launched a new era of peace and prosperity.

We celebrate you with congratulations for today and with confidence for the future. The road forward will not be easy, but we are in a time of renewal. We want you to know how very much your lives matter to all of us.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Hense

Founder and Chairman



FROM THE CEO



Be the Change We Seek

Friendship Tech Prep Graduates:

True greatness calls for courage and good judgment. Sometimes it seeks patience, sometimes speed. It always requires respect and deep determination.

The graduates you see before you today know something about greatness. Each one of them has earned his or her way to the podium, through no easy path but by learning, understanding, and practicing the principles of greatness.

At Friendship, our graduates have had the opportunity to see the world through many lenses. They have been exposed to the extraordinary and the uncomfortable. They have learned to communicate, both by speaking up and by listening. They have built bridges they had never imagined and built bonds for life.

Always, they have had to work hard. And along the way, these young men and women have laid the foundations for a lifetime of learning and leadership.

Knowledge is power, never more so than in the hands of the bright, fearless, educated leaders who stand before you today.

Friendship has prepared these graduates not just for college but for all that lies beyond – careers of their choosing. Confidence to face challenges head-on. Contributions to their communities. Most of all, the passion, courage, and capacity to chase their dreams.

And that is truly great. Congratulations 2023 graduates.

We applaud YOU!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Brantley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patricia Brantley
CEO

FROM MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

Congratulations

Friendship Tech Prep Academy Class of 2023

May 25, 2023

As Mayor of Washington, DC, I am deeply honored to join your family, friends, neighbors, teachers, and your school administrators in extending congratulations to the Friendship Technology Preparatory Academy Class of 2023!

High school is a critical time for self-exploration, personal growth, and taking on new challenges. Even when the challenges you faced were unexpected, such as the global pandemic, you adapted and persevered with the support of the entire District, and I am so proud of you.

Graduating in Washington, DC connects you to the world in a special way. I trust your student experience will continue to empower you to become the best version of yourself and shape your journey beyond graduation into a bright future.

Your future is yours to define. I encourage you to continue to work hard and strive for excellence.

On behalf of the nearly 700,000 residents of Washington, DC, I congratulate you on your accomplishment. May success follow you always.



Muriel Bowser
Mayor, Washington, DC



PRINCIPAL'S FAREWELL



Dear Graduates, Parents, FPCS Board Members, esteemed Faculty and Staff, Honored Guests:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Friendship Technology Preparatory Academy 9th annual commencement exercise. On behalf of the faculty and staff of Friendship Technology Preparatory Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Class of 2023 on your academic achievement. I would also like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the parents, family members, friends, and community partners joining us. Your graduate has come this far, in no small part, thanks to your thoughtful guidance, and your consistent support.

Class of 2023, over these final days of our journey together, I have reflected on your rich high school experience and the possibilities that lie ahead. Walking across this stage is a tremendous milestone – one you've earned through perseverance, especially since you all have experienced being in the virtual space for more than a year. You have shown an abundance of natural talent and true grit. Never forget how far you've come, and take pride in your many accomplishments.

The demands of Friendship Technology Preparatory Academy scholars are heavy, and I hope this experience has given you a sense of intellectual accomplishment and personal growth. Your graduation this year is a testimony to your hard work, determination, and purposefulness. Despite the challenges inherent in completing rigorous course loads, complicated for some by personal difficulties, you remained steadfast in your desire to achieve your goals. Exercise prudence in all matters and you will benefit immensely.

Moreover, I am incredibly excited to see the next phase that life holds for you. I am also saddened to think that our daily interactions will soon come to an end. The Class of 2023 will always hold a very special place in my heart as this is the graduating class I've known since 7th grade. I started the year by speaking about the importance of relationships in education and you forged relationships that will last you a lifetime. You have shown the world that you challenge boundaries, break down those challenges, and redefine them. You have shown the world that you can rise above boundaries, break down barriers and write your own story. Today is proof that you are individuals committed to your education, social change, and making your community a better place.

Today marks the commencement of a new chapter in your life, your book of life has chapters yet to be written. Friendship Technology Preparatory Academy has prepared you well, and now it is up to you to grasp new opportunities, define yourself, your place in the world, and make a difference to those who will look to you for leadership and support.

Please keep alive the great spirit of Friendship Technology Preparatory Academy and the unique experiences that you and other graduates have cherished so deeply. Wherever this journey takes you, you will always be a member of the Titan Family. Remember that you are a Friendship Tech Prep Titan despite the circumstances, we must remain Titan Tough. Tech Prep Titans model the core values of Responsibility, Care, Integrity, Persistence, Confidence, Respect, Commitment, and Patience. Remember we are a House Built by Grit and Driven by Innovation.

Our best wishes are with you today and into the future. Congratulations Class of 2023!

Kym Yee Borth
Principal



Call to Order | Wesley Lawson, *Commencement Marshal*

Processional

Lift Every Voice and Sing | Kenyetta Branison, *Class of 2025*

Mistresses of Ceremonies | Raynellel Rouse, *Senior Sponsor*

Welcome | Donald L. Hense, *Founder & Chairman, FPCS*
The Honorable Trayon White, Sr., *Ward 8 Councilmember*

Salutatorian Welcome | Kierra Petty, *Salutatorian, Class of 2023*

Valedictorian Address | Diamond Bryant, *Valedictorian, Class of 2023*

Vocal Selection | Herbert Jackson, *Director, Voices of Tech Prep*

Presentation of Awards

Built by Grit Award | Lynne Jones, *Academy Director*

Student of the Year Award | Kun Ye Booth, *Principal*

Introduction of Speaker | Anaysia Haynes, *Class of 2023*

Commencement Remarks

Erica P. Loewe, *White House Director of African American Media*

Thank You Remarks | Honesty Johnson, *SGA President*

Conferring of the Diplomas | Lea Crusey, *Chair, D.C. Public Charter School Board*

Presentation of the Class of 2023 | Kun Ye Booth, *Principal*

Awarding of Diplomas | Tuwanda Jackson, *College & Career Counselor* | Tamaira Shaw, *Guidance Counselor*

CEO Charge | Patricia Brantley

Alma Mater | Voices of Tech Prep

Recessional

FRIENDSHIP TECH PREP ACADEMY
ALMA MATER

*Tech Prep Academy
All to thee I give freely
To the hearts that beat beside me
They will always be with me*

*I sing this song
To carry on
Remember the colors
Remember the dreams
Tech Prep Academy*

– Keith Killgo & Aaron Young, 2018

CLASS OF 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Ja'mari Brodie

Bethune-Cookman University, Prince George's Community College, Tougaloo College, Voorhees University, Wilberforce University, Montgomery College

Diamond Bryant | VALEDICTORIAN

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$251,449.00

Friendship Scholars Scholarship Recipient

Friendship Lifer

DC CAP University Partner Scholarship Recipient

Economic Club Scholarship Recipient

Clafin University, Morgan State University, Norfolk State University, Hampton University

Tariq Cotton | TOP 10

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$160,508.00

Friendship Scholars Scholarship Recipient

Student Government Association

NAF Track Certified

Prince George's Community College, Clafin University, North Carolina Central University, Morgan State University, Clark Atlanta University, Harrisburg University, Marshall University, St. John's University, Voorhees College, Tougaloo College, Kent State University

Kaleb Davis

University of the District of Columbia, Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College

Kalyiah Diggs

Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College, Tougaloo University, Voorhees College, Wilberforce University

Isaiah Dodson

Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College, Florida Memorial University, Clinton College, Rust College, Lincoln University, Central State University, Shaw University, Edward Waters College

Denasia Doleman

Livingstone College, Tougaloo University, Prince George's Community College

Brianna Doy

Friendship Lifer

Student Government Association

Wilberforce University, Voorhees College, Tougaloo College, Prince George's Community College

Jessicah Fluellyn | TOP 10

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$14,380.00

Kiwanis Club DC Scholarship Recipient

Pearl & Ivy Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Friendship Scholars Scholarship Recipient

College Track Participant

NAF Track Certified

Virginia State University, Bethune-Cookman University, Wilberforce University, Winston Salem State University, North Carolina Central University, Virginia Union University, Tougaloo University, Voorhees College, Shaw University, Elizabeth City State University, Tennessee State University, Livingstone College, George Mason University,

King Gibbons

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$2,500.00

Friendship Scholars Scholarship Recipient

Peer Leader

Tougaloo University, Voorhees College, Morgan State University, Livingstone College, North Carolina Central University

De'Maria Griffin

Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College, Shaw University, Clinton College, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Cariya Harris | VICE PRESIDENT

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$1,000.00

Prince George's Community College, Mary Baldwin University, Berea College, Morris College, Mount St. Mary's University

Quenton Harris-Robinson

Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College, University of the District of Columbia

CLASS OF 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Robert Haskell | TOP 10

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$26,000.00

Allen University, Claflin University, Prince George's Community College, West Virginia State University, Fayetteville State University, Montgomery College

Anaysia Haynes

Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College, Mount Saint Mary's University

Jahmel Herbert

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$1,400.00

College Track Participant

Shaw University, Prince George's Community College, The University of the District of Columbia

Myara Hill | TOP 10

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$32,000.00

Morgan State University, Lincoln University, Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College

Jamar Jackson

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$43,000.00

Mary Baldwin University, Virginia Union University, Frostburg University, Drake University, Alabama A & M University, Tennessee State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Mount St. Mary's University

Asiyah Johnson

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$100,000.00

Friendship Lifer

Livingstone College, Montgomery College, North Carolina Central University, Shaw University, South Carolina State University, Trinity Washington University, West Virginia State University, Wilberforce University

Honesty Johnson | PRESIDENT | TOP 10

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$10,360.00

Friendship Lifer

Peer Leader

Morgan State University, Harrisburg University, North Carolina Central University, Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College

Yah'ki Lassiter

Friendship Lifer

Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College, The University of the District of Columbia

Cameron McSwain

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$2,500.00

Friendship Scholars Scholarship Recipient

Friendship Lifer

Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College, Voorhees College, Voorhees College, Norfolk State University

Kiara Means

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$88,000.00

North Carolina Central University, Tougaloo College, Voorhees College, Jackson State University, Clark Atlanta University, Wingate University, Tennessee State University

Tyheem Moore

Prince George's Community College, Alabama A & M University, Virginia Union University, Northern Virginia Community College

Kyshaun Neal

Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College, Clinton College, Wilberforce University

Gerrell Offutt

Prince George's Community College, Tougaloo University, University of the District of Columbia

Ranasia Penamon

Jackson State University, Montgomery College, Voorhees College, Tougaloo University, University of the District of Columbia

Kierra Petty | SALUTATORIAN
Total Accrued Scholarships: \$190,700.00

Friendship Scholars Scholarship Recipient
Friendship Lifer
Student Government Association
College Track Participant

North Carolina Central University, Claflin University,
Randolph College, Delaware State University, Salem
College, West Virginia State University, Benedict College,
Jackson State University, South Carolina State University

Janaya Randolph

Shaw University, Prince George's Community College,
Montgomery College

Destiny Rhodes | TOP 10

University of the District of Columbia, Prince George's
Community College, Montgomery College

Zion Rivers

Virginia Union University, Prince George's Community
College, Montgomery College

Jatrice Robertson | ATTORNEY GENERAL

University of the District of Columbia, Prince George's
Community College, Montgomery College

Andre Robinson | TOP 10

Clinton College, Prince George's Community College,
Montgomery College

Keyshaun Samuel

Delaware State University, University of the District
of Columbia, Prince George's Community College,
Montgomery College

Dalia Short

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$21,900.00

College Track Participant

Bowie State University, Claflin University, North Carolina
Central University, Wilberforce University, Prince George's
Community College, Montgomery College

Raymond Smith

Voorhees College, Prince George's Community College,
Montgomery College

Jamakkah Thompson

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$3,400.00

Friendship Lifer
Student Government Association
College Track Participant; College Success Foundation
Upward Bound Participant

Grambling State University, Jackson State University,
Albany State University, Temple University, Virginia Union
University, Alabama A & M University, North Carolina
Central University, Tennessee State University Bowie State
University

Alexis Tyndle | TOP 10

Friendship Lifer

Tougaloo College, Voorhees College, Prince George's
Community College, Montgomery College

Shiniya Washington

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$112,000.00

Randolph College, Claflin University, Jackson State
University, Alabama A & M University, Delaware State
University, South Carolina State University, Shaw
University

Tylah Washington

Georgia State University, Tougaloo College, Voorhees
College, Prince George's Community College

Tyrell White

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$1,948.00

College Track Participant

Bowie State University, Morgan State University,
Clinton College, Wilberforce University, Prince George's
Community College, Montgomery College

CLASS OF 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Dejon Williams

Total Accrued Scholarships: \$1,796.00

NAF Track Certified

College Track Participant

University of the District of Columbia, Prince George's
Community College, Montgomery College

Gerel Williams

Wilberforce University, Livingstone College, Prince
George's Community College, Montgomery College

Makaiyah Williams

Wilberforce University, Prince George's Community
College, Montgomery College

Serenity Williams

Student Government Association

College Success Foundation - Upward Bound Participant

Morgan State University, Voorhees College, Tougaloo
University, Wilberforce University, Prince George's
Community College

Diamond Wilson

University of the District of Columbia, Prince George's
Community College, Montgomery College

Jordan Wilson

Virginia State University, Northern Virginia Community
College, Prince George's Community College

BOARD & STAFF

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Gregory Prince

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Tracy Gray

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Jeanette Mendes, *Parent Representative*

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Chris White

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Ken Cherry

Chief of Staff

Vielka Scott-Marcus

Chief Academic Officer

John Glover

Chief of External Affairs

Dylan Gruver

Chief People Officer

Zachary Morford

Chief of Data and Performance

Catherine Sanwo

Chief Financial Officer

James Waller

Chief of Schools

Friendship Technology Preparatory Academy Leadership Team

Kun Ye Booth

Principal

Lynne Jones

Academy Director

Wesley Lawson

Academy Director

Karen Boyd

Head of Security

Yyonette Brooks

Student Information Officer

Justin Collins

Dean of Students

Glendora Franklin-Green

Math Instructional Specialist

Tuwanda Jackson

College & Career Counselor

Gregory Long

Instructional Specialist

Britney Lott

Data & Assessments Coach

DeAngelo Lucas

Pathways Coordinator

Bruce Mann

Business Manager

Crystal Snowden

VILS Technology Coach

Ja-Mel Whitaker

Dean of Students

Chantel Williams

Director of Student Support Services

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Ricarda Ganjam

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Treasurer

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Nick Rodriguez

SPECIAL THANKS

Student Officers Class of 2023

Diamond Bryant, *Valedictorian*
Kierra Petty, *Salutarioian*
Honesty Johnson, *President*
Cariya Harris, *Vice President*
Jatrice Robertson, *Attorney General*
Cherice Greene, *Innovation Coordinator*
Tamaria Shaw, *Guidence Counselor*

Leadership Team

Kun Ye Booth, *Principal*
Lynne Jones, *Academy Director*
Wesley Lawson, *Academy Director*
Karen Boyd, *Head of Security*
Yyonette Brooks, *Student Information Officer*
Justin Collins, *Dean of Students*
Glendora Franklin-Green, *Math Instructional Specialist*
Tuwanda Jackson, *College & Career Counselor*
Gregory Long, *Instructional Specialist*
Britney Lott, *Data & Assessments Coach*
DeAngelo Lucas, *Pathways Coordinator*
Bruce Mann, *Busines Manager*
Crystal Snowden, *VILS Technology Coach*
Ja-Mel Whitaker, *Dean of Students*
Chantel Williams, *Director of Student Support Services*

Friendship Tech Prep Staff

Chinua Abubakar, *Special Education Teacher*
Christina Adbulla, *Algebra Teacher*
Stanley Barnes, *Food & Nutrition Services*
Shamethia Barnes, *Dedicated Aide*
Travon Belinfante, *Special Education Teacher*
Pilisha Adkins-Lewis, *Science Teacher*
Lyle Brown, *Special Education Teacher*
Natasha Brown, *Dedication Aide*
Marvin Bush, *Security Officer*
Tiffany Chamberlain, *Art Teacher*
Janet Collins, *Special Education Teacher*
Tawana Conyers, *Food & Nutrition Services*
LaFaun Davis, *AOE Electives Teaceher*
Christopher Dotson, *Academy of Engineering Lead Teacher*
Angel Fenwick, *Dedicated Aide*
Cherice Greene, *Academy of Urban Ecology Lead Teacher*
Herbert Jackson, *Choir Teacher*
Nadine Jeanty, *Health & P.E. Teacher*
Michael Jeffries, *Special Education Teacher*
Tyler Johnson, *Social Studies Teacher*
Patrice Jones, *Psychologist*
Sylvia Jones, *Speech Pathologist*
Breyah Jones -Powers, *Athletic Trainer*
Alfred Kamara, *Physics Teacher*

William Kelly, *Social Studies Teacher*
Keith Kilgo, *Band Director*
Markeyter Lewis, *Dance Teacher*
Catiria Lucas, *Food & Nutrition Services*
Melanie Lund, *Social Studies Teacher*
Brittney Lynch, *Geometry Teacher*
Tiffany Mason, *Special Education Coordinator*
Coy McKinney, *AUE Electives Teacher*
Nakia McLaurin, *Social Worker*
Darniece McSwain, *Security Officer*
Lydia Melton, *ELA Teacher*
Ronald Metts, *Security Officer*
Devyn Mitchell, *SMILES Therapy*
Douglas Nidzgorski, *AOE Electives Teacher*
Christopher Nwabineli, *Special Education Teacher*
Fatara Odifa, *Special Education Teacher*
Janee Owens, *Administrative Assistant*
Kenneth Pierre, *ELA Teacher*
Yvonne Polee-Love, *Administrative Assistant*
Marcia Robertson, *Special Education Teacher*
Ronnie Ross, *Security Officer*
Raynelle Rouse, *Theatre Teacher*
Christian Schaefer, *AOE Electives Teacher*
Cara Schiavone, *ELA Teacher*
Dwayne Shackelford, *Athletic Director*
Christine Short, *Special Education Teacher*
Sydney Simms, *ELA Teacher*
Michia Slaughter-Coles, *Director Food & Nutrition Services*
Sierra Steele, *Electives Teacher*
Hadley White, *Special Education Teacher*
Ashley Williams, *Algebra Teacher*
Steven Williams, *Engineer*
Tony Xiao, *Precalculus Teacher*
Wei Zheng, *Madarin Teacher*



Friendship Public
Charter School
TECH PREP ACADEMY

KUN YE BOOTH, PRINCIPAL | DONALD L. HENSE, FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN | PATRICIA BRANTLEY, CEO