



**Cavalier Johnson**

*City of Milwaukee Common Council*

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## **Clearing a pathway to college for young Milwaukeeans**

### **Statement of Common Council President Cavalier Johnson July 7, 2021**

During a time when we need to be reminded that good news exists and is out there to be shared, I would like to share some from right here in Milwaukee.

**Jerel Ballard**, founder and president of the Milwaukee's Finest Scholarship Foundation, is preparing to award 10 students with potentially life-changing scholarships this Saturday during a special ceremony at City Hall.

As the **Milwaukee's Finest Scholarship Foundation** celebrates its 5th anniversary, it has raised more than \$50,000 in scholarships, and currently has more than 50 students enrolled at prestigious, historical, and local institutions across the country.

To Mr. Ballard, I say 'THANK YOU!' Thank you for providing a much needed boost of positivity and hope for young Milwaukeeans who have been relegated to remote classes and lives turned upside down, in many ways, by the COVID-19 pandemic. You are helping to clear a pathway to college for some very deserving young men and women.

To the scholarship winners, I say "Congratulations and well done!" You have exhibited leadership and perseverance during some of our most challenging times, and we believe you will make us all proud as you head off to pursue higher education and a future of success.

I close by giving you the 2021 Milwaukee's Finest Scholarship Award Recipients:

- Cynthia Soto-Chavez - Ronald Reagan High School (\$2,000)
- D'Anthony Morgan - Carmen High School (\$2,000)
- Dilan Yahir Castillo Ventura - Carmen High School (\$1,000)

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- Fardowso Shidad - Rufus King High School (\$2,000)
- James Glenn - Rufus King High School (\$1,000)
- Joshua Wilder - Riverside University High School (\$1,000)
- Kayla Jimenez - Ronald Reagan High School (\$1,000)
- Nadeen Mahmoud - Salam High School (\$1,000)
- Suha Malik - Franklin High School (\$1,000)
- William Holmes - Rufus King High School (\$1,000)

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