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For Immediate Release

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Newport News Education Foundation awards \$10,000 scholarship

Each year the Newport News Education Foundation selects an applicant from Newport News Public Schools to receive the \$10,000 Wayne D. Lett Scholarship. This year, Jordan D. Moody, a senior at Woodside High School and Student Representative to the Newport News School Board, has earned that honor.

Moody, who is active in a number of extracurricular activities, including chair of the Superintendent's Advisory Group on Education and member of the Mayor's Youth Commission, impressed the Lett Scholar Selection Committee with his commitment to community service and passion for teaching.

"What we saw and heard was a young man – who has many doors and many opportunities open to him -- choose the one that would help educate the next generation of students," said John McMillan, chair of the foundation's selection committee.

"His commitment to teaching helped us make what is always a difficult decision when choosing the next Lett Scholar," McMillan added.

According to Moody, his passion for education was strengthened by his experience with the School Board, and the challenges presented by COVID-19 that arrived during his term as student representative.

"This pandemic has brought much-needed light on how important it is for the teacher-student relationship," said Moody. "Students may not have anyone else whom they can talk to, or anyone else who can say the four words that will completely change a student's life forever: 'I believe in you.'"

He said that, "while it has been a great joy and experience to serve as the Education Chair for the Mayor's Youth Commission, serve in various capacities at Woodside such as the assistant athletic director, and president of the Athletic Leadership Team, my greatest privilege and honor is to serve the 29,000 students who attend Newport News Public Schools as their representative."



Jordan D. Moody

“To teach is to touch lives forever. All it takes is one teacher who cares and one determined student to change the world,” Moody added.

Moody plans to attend Norfolk State University on a scholarship to pursue his dream of becoming a teacher. He was also accepted to Christopher Newport University, Morehouse College, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia State University, and Virginia Union University.

In addition to being inducted into the National Honor Society of High School Scholars in 2019, playing saxophone and participating in youth development programs, his other recent extracurricular activities include:

- Woodside High School Student-Athletic Leadership Team (SALT) President
- Woodside High School Athletes in Action President
- Woodside High School Magnet Representative
- Woodside High School Principal’s Advisory Committee
- Newport News Young Adult Police Commission Member
- City-wide Student Council Executive Board Member
- Tri-City Youth Foundation Executive Board Member and Scholastic Chair

The Wayne D. Lett Scholar Program is a merit-based award of \$10,000 given over four years to a Newport News public school senior who plans to become a public school teacher. The program is administered by the Newport News Education Foundation as a tribute to Wayne D. Lett, Ed.D., a former superintendent of Newport News Public Schools. The recipient must commit to teach in Newport News for three consecutive years after graduation.

About the Newport News Education Foundation

The Newport News Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the efforts of Newport News Public Schools to prepare students for their future. Members bring to the foundation their expertise in business, education, and industry, as well as skills in community leadership. The Foundation also serves as a convener and facilitator, providing events and programs to encourage dialogue between the business and education communities. Its key programs support NNPS students and teachers through the Wayne D. Lett Scholarship Program, the Teacher Innovation Mini Grant Program, and the "Salute to Success" student recognition event.