



Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association (MAMA) Announces 2022-2023 Scholarship Winners

Awarding over \$350,000 in scholarships since 2006, the Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association (MAMA) is proud to present 15 scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year to community college and university students interested in pursuing a career in the automotive manufacturing industry. Since 2006, MAMA has supported the growth of a strong workforce essential to the health of all industries in the state. This year's scholarships were awarded to technical and engineering-related majors, as well as non-traditional majors, that can be applied in the automotive industry. Along with the scholarship, recipients will also receive one-on-one mentoring from a MAMA member in their region and the opportunity to participate in job skills workshops.

MAMA serves its members by promoting growth, development, and improvement in the automotive industry in Mississippi, as well as serving as a forum for interaction among automotive manufacturing companies in the state. In extending his congratulations, Kevin Burgess, MAMA's President, said, "MAMA is excited to target ambitious students with an interest in an automotive career with scholarships to help them become the next leaders of our industry. The outstanding group of students who received this year's Mississippi Manufacturers Association's scholarships bode well for the future of automotive manufacturing in our great State. I congratulate them and wish them success in completing their degree, followed by a successful start in our industry!"

Among the successful 2022-2023 MAMA Scholarship candidates were:

Community College Winners

Chad Bishop is a sophomore at Itawamba Community College majoring in Robotics Automation. A wastewater treatment plant operator at APMM in Guntown, MS, for the last 11 years, Bishop is a certified treatment specialist and a hands-on practitioner with operational, analytical and maintenance proficiency across a full spectrum of wastewater systems and equipment. In his essay for the scholarship, Chad wrote, "I am filled with excitement for the opportunity to work as a maintenance team member in the automotive industry. Currently, I am given opportunities to work with the Maintenance Department on projects regularly because the Maintenance Manager is aware that I am striving to obtain my degree. With the hands-on training I am receiving, I will be more prepared to take on maintenance responsibilities at APMM when I finish. This degree will help me better support my family and reach higher occupational goals."

Joseph Harper, a sophomore at Itawamba Community College, is studying Industrial Maintenance and is in the Advanced Manufacturing Technician Program at Toyota Mississippi. A President's List scholar at ICC and a Principle's List scholar at Baldwyn High School where he graduated, Joseph has a strong work ethic and volunteer spirit. A member of the Beta Club and an all-star football player serving as a team captain and receiving a player of the week award in high school, Joseph is also an active member in the teen and young adult ministry at his church, Love Alive Christian Center in Guntown. Harper said that as an AMT student he has learned over the past year how to balance

both work and school as he attends classes at ICC two days a week and works three days a week on the first shift at Toyota MS.

Chloe Kiser is a sophomore enrolled at Northeast Mississippi Community College. Her love of drag racing, along with participation in the automotive program at the New Albany Career Center, led her to pursue a degree in Automotive Service Technology. Her instructor described Chloe as a hard worker with a strong commitment to getting her degree. Throughout her enrollment at Northeast, those around her have witnessed first-hand Chloe's strong work ethic and her ability to work well with other classmates. She has proven to be a quality student both inside and outside the classroom, as she also holds down a full-time job to finance her education. When applying for the scholarship, Kiser shared that she was enjoying learning more about engines, transmissions, suspension, and servicing vehicles, and that she was looking forward to the more advanced classes in electrical and diagnostics.

Mila "Nikki" Ragan, Diesel Power Technology major at Northeast Mississippi Community College, sets a high standard for the students around her due to her maturity, performance, and work ethic. The sophomore student exhibits exceptional time management and organizational skills daily in her program as she works, attends school full-time, and takes care of her family, including four young children. Nikki has shown her excitement and determination for this type of work as she has completed more of the online training than most students accomplish at this stage of the program. One of her instructors shared that he sets a high standard for my students, and Ragan exceeds the attendance and performance requirements consistently. He further shared that she is a great role model for women who want to work in the male-dominated diesel field.

University Student Winners

Chiedo Atuegwu, a senior majoring in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Mathematics at Mississippi State University, has a zeal to challenge himself and adapt to new environments. His 4.0 GPA and numerous honors and awards, including being a 2020 All-Texas Academic team member and a 2020 All-USA Academic Team nominee, demonstrate that he continues to rise to his challenges. His work experience almost makes his 4.0 GPA in electrical engineering a footnote, having worked several jobs in construction and oil, serving as equipment and fuel operator for several companies, a field crew leader, and safety specialist - huge experience for a future engineer. A professor described Chiedo as rising star, not only at his university, but in the State of Mississippi, the United States, and internationally. Atuegwu wrote that he pursues his education with the utmost effort so he can also help improve the welfare of his family and community.

Lee Bowman is a junior at Mississippi State University majoring in Industrial and Systems Engineering with a minor in Entrepreneurship. Bowman, a Shackouls Honor College participant, is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society and a Presidents Scholar maintaining a 3.93 GPA. He is in the Accelerated MBA-Project Management Program, the MBA Venture Pathway Program (MVP), and serves as a representative for the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department. Lee has furthered his hands-on skills through numerous internships, including Nissan Motor Corporation in

Smyrna, TN; Viking Range in Greenwood, MS; Milwaukee Tool in Clinton, MS; and at Milwaukee Tool in Jackson, MS. He has also worked as an undergraduate researcher evaluating Urban Air Mobility at MSU. Lee enjoys participating on the MSU Men's Club volleyball and soccer teams and as a Community Leader at First Baptist Ridgeland.

Minjae Cho, a junior at Mississippi State University, has maintained a 3.9 GPA majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Mathematics. Cho is a Shackouls Honors College member and has research experience at CAVS (Center for Advanced Vehicular System) and at APSL (Advanced Propulsion Spray Lab) at MSU. A dream to fly after watching jets above his home in Korea ended after he suffered an injury. However, that gave him motivation to grab a new dream – designing, developing, and upgrading jet engines. A professor wrote, “I have been the adviser of Minjae during his undergraduate student research program. It has been such a delight to see his sincere life and enthusiasm to learn new things. He has demonstrated his passion and intelligence in a proactive manner.” Cho has also served as a Korean teacher at the Starkville Korean School, a Physics tutor, and as treasurer of the Korean Student Association.

Nicholas Greazel is currently enrolled as a junior at the University of Mississippi maintaining a 3.93 GPA. He is a member of the Sally Barksdale Honors College and has been named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll every semester. Enrolled in the Haley Barbour Center for Manufacturing Excellence (CME), he earned the Toyota-Haley Barbour Scholarship. Nick serves as an ambassador for the CME and sits on the CME's Student Advisory Board. Greazel has completed internships with Toyota Motor Manufacturing Mississippi in Blue Springs, Norman J. Toberman and Associates in Arlington Heights, IL, and Precision Zone in Wheeling, IL. One of his managers during his internships stated that their company strives to offer students a strong understanding of their production system and a chance to experience daily life as an engineer – they soon realized Nick had as much to offer them as they had to offer Nick. On campus, Greazel serves as the treasurer of the Catholic Campus Ministry.

Downie Grim, a junior at Jackson State University majoring in Industrial Technology, moved to Mississippi at the age of 19 when his father took a job as a plant manufacturing manager. Grim formed an affinity for manufacturing at Copiah Lincoln Community College. He also enlisted in the Mississippi National Guard, which offered the opportunity of free college tuition, and graduated at the top of his class. Downey is passionate about his career, the opportunities he has received through the National Guard, and sharing his story with young adults and teenagers. Downey, now a Signal and Technology Specialist with the rank of Cadet (Officer) in the Mississippi National Guard, has completed internships with Gibraltar Industries in Taylorsville, MS, and Continental Tire in Clinton, MS. He has attained his lean six sigma white belt certificate, is working on his yellow belt, and serves as the President of the Jackson State University Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Austin Hipkind is a junior Mechanical Engineering major with a minor in Manufacturing and Computer Science enrolled at the University of Mississippi. Hipkind is on the Chancellor's Honor Roll, a member of the Sally Barksdale Honors College and enrolled in the Haley Barbour Center for Manufacturing Excellence (CME). He has interned with Toyota Motor Manufacturing Mississippi in

Blue Springs and at Knight's Electrical LLC in Orlando, FL, where he worked as a master electrician assistant. His manager at Toyota Mississippi wrote that Austin has risen to every challenge they have thrown his way and has been able to solve a critical problem for Toyota Mississippi that will be able to help all Toyota plants in North America. On campus, Austin is active in the National Society of Leadership and Success and the Baptist Student Union.

Chukwuka Dominic James is a senior maintaining a 3.90 GPA at Alcorn State University while majoring in Electromechanical Engineering Technology and minoring in Health Physics. Chukwuka currently works as a resident assistant at Alcorn State University and has worked as an Applied Science student assistant, a student intern in the Advance Technology Department, and a student assistant at Solid Rock Academy in Fayetteville, GA. He has set high academic goals throughout his education and is an Alcorn State University President's List Awardee and was a Solid Rock Academy President's List Awardee where he was a member of the BETA Club and received high academic achievement in literature, mathematics, science, and computer skills. James wants to pursue a career as an engineer since his passion has always been to improve the life of others by means of science and technology.

Erastus Lum is a senior at Mississippi State University majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Erastus maintains a 3.94 GPA and still manages to find time to work on project cars with his brother. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, a member of Phi Kappa Phi, and a recipient of a Who's Who Award and President's Scholar Award at Hinds Community College. Lum recently completed a co-op at Nissan North America in Canton, MS, in Parts Quality Engineering. His supervisor at Nissan stated that it was a pleasure to work alongside Erastus and that he had probably benefitted as much from Erastus' knowledge as Erastus had benefitted from his knowledge. Lum was a Hot Wheels and Legos aficionado as a child and credits both toys for his interest in cars today.

Garrett Mills is a junior Mechanical Engineering major at Mississippi State University and is a member of the Shakouls Honors College. This year he completed a summer internship in Reliability Engineering with Graphic Packaging International and a spring co-op with Factory Planning at Mercedes-Benz where he also served as a member of the Mercedes-Benz U.S. International Student Co-op Board. In 2021, Garrett completed an internship with Westlake Compounds. Mills has been on the President's List consistently at MSU, was the 2019-2020 Outstanding Chemistry Student of the Year at East Mississippi Community College, the Valedictorian of his high school class, and a member of the 2017-2018 Lowndes Young Leaders Program. He was elected president of his Kappa Sigma Fraternity Pledge Class, and in high school was captain of his High School tennis team as well as captain of the marching band drumline.

Jeremy Obregon, a senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering and minoring in Manufacturing at the University of Mississippi, is a student in the Haley Barbour Center for Manufacturing Excellence at Ole Miss where he serves as a tour guide, ambassador, and a student worker at the front desk. He has completed an internship with the Hol-Mac Corporation as part of a five- person team working on improving the build rate of Hol-Mac's Donkey Lift fork trucks. Jeremy was instrumental in leading the group in Value Stream Mapping of the line, revising the plant layout, balancing the assembly line, and improving the build rate by over 100% in three days. He is a member of the Collegiate Automotive Manufacturing Society, the University of Mississippi Rocket Team, and the

Provost Scholars Program. Obregon is president of the Special Olympics Ole Miss chapter and has participated in HCR Day of Service and the Ole Miss Big Event.

Emmanuel Onung is a junior enrolled at Jackson State University majoring in Computer Engineering. With a 3.94 GPA, Emmanuel is on the JSU President's List, a member of the NSLS Honor Society, and recipient of an Academic Affairs-Ayers Scholarship, JSU National Alumni Scholarship, and a Milton and Rose Austin Scholarship. He maintains a notable presence on campus contributing to his peers' success through his work with the CSET Scholars Academy tutoring College Algebra and computer science for the academy; as a lead intern on service projects such as HBCU First leading networking and professional development for his peers; and as innovation fellow with JSU's Center for Innovation and Research helping oversee the center's hardware and software. Onung is an Innovative Fellow with the JSU Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and serves as an assistant under the Geo-Path program working on an Oysters Gape Measurement System.

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For more information about the MAMA Scholarship program, visit the MAMA website at <https://mamaonline.net/scholarships>.