

**African American Hall Fame Museum
2016 Red Black and Green Ball**

Bloomington/Normal Scholarship Award Winners



Willie G. Brown Scholarship Award

Carsen Alexander Hilt - Carsen is the son of Maurice and Domonica Hilt. He's a senior at Bloomington High School and has a 4.6/5.0 GPA. He's an IHSA Academic Scholar and an Illinois State Scholarship Commission Scholar. He's a Big 12 Scholar Athlete and he won the 2016 Impact Athlete Honors. He's currently participating in Football, Track, Theatre and Drama. He's also a Choir Director, Youth Advisor and a Youth Teacher. Carsen plans to major in Civil Engineering at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in Edwardsville, IL. In the fall.

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Christian McKinley Baker - Christian is the son of Keith Baker and Meta Mickens-Baker. He's a senior at Normal Community High School and has a 5.4/5.0 GPA. He's the National Honor Society Vice-President, and is a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and The French National Honor Society. He's also an Illinois State Scholar. Christian plays the Violin and is the Concertmaster and President of the Chamber Orchestra. He is also a two-time member of the Illinois Music Education Association All-State Orchestra. He has received the Bloomington-Normal Academic Achievement Award each year since 5th grade. Christian won the 2014 Bloomington-Normal Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) Gold Medal for Short Story. He's an Eastview Christian Church Foundry teacher (4th & 5th grades) and a member of the Senior High Ministry. Christian plans to major in Biblical/Theological Studies and Pre-Law. Christian hopes to attend Harvard College, Washington University, or Wheaton College in the fall.

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Dale W. Avery Scholarship Award

Markus DeShawn Brooks - Markus is the son of Udonald and Dorothy Brooks. He's a senior at Normal Community High School and has a 4.6/5.0 GPA. He's a Normal Community High School Merit Honor Roll Student, won the Normal Community High School Academic Achievement Award, won the Illinois Wesleyan's Neighbor-to-Neighbor Academic Achievement Award, won the "I Have A Dream" Youth Award and won the NAACP Harry Hightower "Youth Community Service Award". He's a member of National Technical Honor Society and Bloomington Area Career Center Technical Honor Society. He's the Sigma Beta Club Youth Group-Vice President sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He won the 100 Black Men of Central Illinois 2014-2015 Mentee of the Year Award and he's in the 100 Black Men of Central Illinois Mentoring for Life (M4L) Program. He won the Big 12 Conference Scholar Athlete Award, won the IHSA Scholar Athlete Award and he's a member of the Varsity Wrestling Team. Markus plans to major in Criminal Justice at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi in the fall.

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Rhea Simone Gibson - Rhea is the daughter of Edward and Susan Gibson. She's a senior at University High School and has a 4.0/4.0 GPA. In recognition of her scholastic success she has been presented with the Minority Academic Achievement Award by Illinois Wesleyan for the past six years. She is also a 2016 Illinois State Scholar. She will be presenting in the Bloomington-Normal ACT-SO Competition this coming April in three events; poetry written, poetry spoken and drawing. Over the course of her academic career, Rhea was involved various extracurricular activities. Everything from sharing leadership of an all-girls A Capella group and participating in track and field and jazz vocal choir. She also participates in Madrigal dinners as part of a vocal ensemble. When Rhea isn't working or practicing she enjoys reading, drawing and baking. Her love for classic and modern literature has transitioned into an interest for writing as well. Rhea plans to major in Business at University of Kentucky in Lexington Kentucky in the fall.