



## \$3.5 million grant to benefit Marion County students

*Marion County School District Educational Foundation Fund is established to immediately provide scholarships to Pearl River Community College*

For Immediate Release

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- MacKenzie Scott donates \$3.5 Million to benefit Marion County students
  - Marion County School District and the Pinebelt Foundation partner to form the Marion County School District Educational Foundation Fund
  - Scholarships funded from the grant will provide free tuition for many Marion County School District students to attend Pearl River Community College
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[Columbia, MS, 11/18/2022] - The Marion County School District (MCSD) is pleased to announce that it is the beneficiary of a non-restricted gift in the amount of \$3,500,000 from MacKenzie Scott through her Lost Horse Foundation. Scott's unparalleled generosity has helped millions across the globe, and will now impact Marion County School District students for generations to come. *"We are humbled and grateful for the generous gift which will secure upwards of 50 scholarships a year for students. When we work together, we can foster positive change that gives our children the tools to overcome the generational challenges that poverty brings. We give credit to God for blessing our children and community. The choices that led us to this moment are all about OUR children. When we empower children today, we create a better tomorrow."*, said Carl Michael Day, Superintendent of Education, Marion County School District

The MCSD has partnered with the Pinebelt Foundation to create the Marion County School District Educational Foundation Fund. The Pinebelt Foundation will oversee the fiscal management of the new fund and the distributions of its assets. *"Our organization is proud to be in the position to help make this dream a reality for the hard working students of the Marion County School District. We exist to connect charitable people to those who make a difference in our communities and there is no better example than what has happened here."*, said Michael Dixon, Executive Director of the Pinebelt Foundation

The Marion County School District Educational Foundation Fund will award scholarships made available to those graduating from West Marion High School and East Marion High School.

Students who are chosen will be able to attend Pearl River Community College at no cost, and may choose to pursue an Academic Pathway, Career & Vocational Pathway, or Health Science and Nursing Pathway. *“I am overwhelmed by the generosity of this donation. The long term impact of this act of kindness is immeasurable. The greatest obstacle in achieving a college education often lies in the financial challenges it requires. The removal of this roadblock will create clear pathways for educational success. Pearl River Community College is humbled and honored to partner with the Marion County School District and the Pinebelt Foundation to create Life-changing educational opportunities for generations to come.”*, commented Dr. Adam Breerwood, President of Pearl River Community College.

Applications for the scholarship will go live for potential recipients at the end of November. Further details and explanations of the application process can be found at [www.marionk12.org/MCSDEducationalFoundationScholarship](http://www.marionk12.org/MCSDEducationalFoundationScholarship)

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The Pinebelt Foundation exists to connect donors that care with causes that make a difference.