



Williamsburg County School District

Post Office Box 1067-Kingtree, SC 29556
Telephone: (843) 355-5571 Fax: (843) 355-3213
www.wcsd.k12.sc.us



Myron E. Davis, Ed.D
Executive Director of Public Relations

Dr. Kelvin Wymbbs, Superintendent

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2024

KINGSTREE NATIVE HONORED AS A BREAKTHROUGH SCHOLAR AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Ms. Paige McKnight, a freshman majoring in Biological Sciences at Clemson University, was recently announced as a Breakthrough Scholar. Every year, Clemson University selects a group of students to be part of the University's Breakthrough Scholars Program. Breakthrough Scholars are chosen based on their academic excellence, passion for research and discovery, leadership ability, intention to pursue advanced degrees, and potential to make a difference in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

The selection process involves reviewing Clemson University undergraduate applications completed by the Early Action deadline, as well as Honors College admission applications completed by the Honors Priority application deadlines. This is followed by interviews and other activities with student finalists during a Scholarship Recruitment Weekend. The Breakthrough Scholars Program (BSP) provides opportunities for scholars to connect with science, engineering, and health professionals and faculty mentors in research labs on and off campus, across the nation, and in other countries. The program also offers a full cost of attendance scholarship to help reduce financial barriers, allowing students to focus on their academics and seek research opportunities during the academic year and over the summer.

The goal of the program is to help scholars develop and utilize their talents to expand their impact in the classroom, the lab, their community, or their future professions. In addition to the benefits offered directly by the BSP, scholars are also members of the Clemson University Honors College.

"I am incredibly grateful and proud to have the amazing opportunity to be surrounded by such brilliant people who demonstrate academic excellence and a passion for STEM. To me, being a Breakthrough Scholar means that I have been academically and civically elevated to new heights so that I can continue to work hard to achieve my goals and serve my community all while having a supportive network of other scholarly individuals behind me. I am excited to see what the future holds for me!"

Paige McKnight, BSP Scholar Clemson University and Kingtree native

"We are humbled by the support that has been provided for Paige throughout her preschool Headstart beginnings to 10th grade. Through her junior and senior years of high school, the WCS D continued to

uplift and support her. (Paige completed her 11th and 12th-grade years at the Governor's School of Science and Mathematics). We are truly favored by the local community and are thankful for everything, God is continuing to bless Paige with!"

Paige McKnight's parents: Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Jennifer McKnight

Paige McKnight's Paternal grandparents: Paul and Landeas Mcknight

Paige McKnight's Maternal grandparents: Columbus and Lillian McKenzie; George and Genise Miller



Clemson University Headshot



Clemson University Summer Research Headshot