



Princeton University Full Scholarship Award



Kimberly Cross is an academic scholar that dominates every goal and challenge that comes her way. Born and raised on the beautiful island of Jamaica, Kimberly and her parents struggled greatly, due to her father losing his job and work being hard to find; this caused numerous financial hardships that could've had a negative impact on Kimberly and her education. However, Kimberly's fiery resiliency, warrior spirit, honor for her parent's countless sacrifices, and hunger for success was the engine in Kimberly's heart that powered her through every trial and tribulation. Despite the insurmountable circumstances she faced, Kimberly's academic record was decorated with A's and high honors. Her academic

record and proven consistent academic success earned her a spot at the top high school in Jamaica, Immaculate Conception, where she became a member of the Honor Society, Octagon Club, and the Society of Mathematicians.

In 2019, looking for better opportunities and financial stability, Kimberly's mother decided to immigrate to the United States. Although this was another challenge in adapting and succeeding for Kimberly, once she arrived in the city of East Orange and enrolled in East Orange Campus High School, she immersed herself in her studies, and once again, excelled and thrived in all of her academics. Additionally, in order to be a well rounded scholar, maintaining a 4.0 GPA in all of her classes, which included Advanced Placement courses, Kimberly became a part of a multitude of extracurricular activities, like Track and Cheerleading, participated in various competitions, and volunteered around school any chance she could.

Moreover, when the pandemic of 2020 hit, Kimberly refused to let the pandemic be a reason to relax mentally. She saw this as an opportunity to take up forgotten passions and become more involved in her new community of East Orange. Since the onset of the pandemic,

Kimberly began writing poetry that highlights racial inequality, and she is now in the process of publishing her first book, with the support of her East Orange Campus High School mentors.

Additionally, Kimberly Cross is the founder of a very successful natural hair page titled, The Teenage Curl, where she promotes natural hair positivity and appreciation in the community. Furthermore, she is also the student leader of the EOCHS Social Justice Student Union, where she helps to organize community service activities, programs, and leads discussions on equality, perseverance, and change. One of Kimberly's biggest accomplishments, so far, is earning a full ride scholarship to Princeton University, where she plans to major in Biology and minor in Political



Science. There is no challenge or worldly circumstances that will stop Kimberly from succeeding. She knows that success is her only option.