

Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Summer Principals Academy | New York
525 West 120th Street
New York, NY 10027
Email: spanyc@tc.columbia.edu
Phone: (212) 678-3390
<https://www.tc.columbia.edu/spa>

Summer Principals Academy | New Orleans
540 Broadway Street,
Room 307
New Orleans, LA 70118
Email: spanolainfo@tc.columbia.edu
Phone: (504) 522-3395
<https://www.tc.columbia.edu/spa>

**Summer Principals Academy Students Recognized
for First Annual KCT Scholarship Award**

SPA | New Orleans 2020 Cohort members each receive \$15,000 William Kenan Charitable Trust Scholarship

Press Conference: Thursday, November 19, 2020 via Zoom Webinar
[Register here.](#)

Media Contact: Hannah Sensenbrenner | hfs2133@tc.columbia.edu
Easton Clary | ec3542@tc.columbia.edu

New Orleans, L.A. – November 2020 – Brittany Brooks, Deontré Clayton, and Courtney Green-Calhoun have been selected as the first-ever recipients of the Kenan Charitable Trust Scholarship. The KCT Scholarship at Summer Principals Academy | New Orleans (SPA|NOLA) is made possible by the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, which serves to promote the importance of education and provides grants in the areas of education, arts, and arts education. Due to the generosity of the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, Teachers College Columbia University prides itself on extending scholarship offers to aspiring school leaders in financial support of their attendance to SPA|NOLA.

"Scarcity of scholarship opportunities often impede the ability to participate in our program," said Director of Summer Principals Academy at Teachers College Dr. Brian K. Perkins. "I am elated to welcome these passionate educators to SPA and to celebrate the leadership they will provide in public education in the future."

"This scholarship is evidence that an organization cares about educators. It shows me that organizations are willing to invest in their educators, and ultimately in the future of education," said Ms. Courtney Green-Calhoun, 2020 KCT Scholarship recipient and teacher at Miami-Dade Public Schools. "I feel honored that I would be chosen to be the recipient of this scholarship. It allows me to believe that this program and my ability to achieve it is purposeful and that I am meant to be a part of something bigger."

"The presence of challenges does not diminish the possibility," said Deontré Clayton, 2020 KCT Scholarship recipient and Program Manager at Florida Reading Corps, Broward County. "Receiving this scholarship award has given me even more drive to continue to make an impact on my community as a leader."

"In the current climate where educators feel they are not valued, this scholarship was a blessing. As an Assistant Principal at KIPP VOICE Academy in Jacksonville, FL, receiving this opportunity to further guide me on my journey as an aspiring leader in education is a complete honor," said Brittany Brooks, 2020 KCT Scholarship recipient. "SPA has been an amazing experience so far, and I'm learning so many things that I'm able to apply immediately to my current work."

This past summer at Summer Principals Academy was unlike any summer the program has experienced thus far. With the formidable challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic, SPA students attended class virtually and engaged in discussion around the role of education leaders during a worldwide pandemic. Faculty incorporated scenarios and challenges that the pandemic brought to life into class exercises, case studies, and assignments so that students would be prepared to lead in the world as we know it and overcome any hurdles they may encounter in the future.

The KCT Scholarship recipients will be able to participate in and complete various reports that provide supporting evidence of student and school success throughout their fourteen months of Summer Principals Academy | New Orleans and thereafter. SPA will celebrate the achievement of the KCT Scholarship Award recipients on Thursday, November 19, at 3:30 pm CST/4:30 pm EST with a virtual press event to extend an official congratulations and to welcome prospective reporters.

For additional information on the Summer Principals Academy and its curriculum, visit our website at www.tc.columbia.edu/spa, or email directly to spanolainfo@tc.columbia.edu. For more information on the Kenan Charitable Trust Scholarship email spanoladirector@tc.columbia.edu. To register for the Summer Principals Academy Kenan Charitable Trust Press Conference on Thursday, November 19, please visit our [registration website here](#).

About Summer Principals Academy

Summer Principals Academy is a proven & effective principal training program through which aspiring school leaders earn a Master's Degree in Education Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University, the oldest and largest graduate school of education in the United States. Advocating innovation, creativity, and risk-taking to promote institutional change, our outstanding faculty introduce students to new possibilities for student learning, school improvement, social equity, and creative school design. With cohorts in both New York City & New Orleans, teachers from all over the U.S. and abroad can earn their Master's Degree in just 14 months without having to miss a day of teaching. Applications for Summer 2021 are now open and can be found at tc.edu/apply.



Courtney Green-Calhoun
SPA|NOLA Cohort 2020
Teacher, Miami-Dade Public Schools
Homestead, FL



Deontré Clayton
SPA|NOLA Cohort 2020
Program Manager, Florida Reading Corps
Pembroke Pines, FL



Brittany Brooks
SPA|NOLA Cohort 2020
Assistant Principal, KIPP VOICE Academy
Jacksonville, FL

Media Contacts

Hannah Sensenbrenner, SPA|NOLA Assistant Director
hfs2133@tc.columbia.edu

Easton Clary, SPA PR Intern
ec3542@tc.columbia.edu