



# NAJAH NICHOLAS

*2020 EAO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT*

**KENNER DISCOVERY HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY**

Najah Nicholas is the daughter of Eugene Nicholas and Johnny and Danielle Little. She will be attending Xavier University of Louisiana, where she will continue her softball career and pursue a degree in Biology Pre-Med. While at Kenner Discovery High School, Nicholas received the Valedictory Award for achieving a 4.64 GPA. Nicholas served as the state president for Louisiana HOSA- Future Health Professionals, student body vice president, and National Honor Society Historian. She also played volleyball, basketball, softball and track and field. Nicholas was honored as a Composite Louisiana High School Athletic Association All-State Athlete in all four sports and the Louisiana Athletic Directors Association Female Academic Nominee. Furthermore, Nicholas participated in the LSU Summer Science Program, the American College of Cardiology Young Scholars Program, and the Dillard University WISHES Program. When she is not volunteering at Ochsner Hospital, she is enjoying time with her youngest brother, Johnny III. Najah aspires to be an internal medicine physician and then eventually teach first-year medical students.

## Highlights

GPA: 4.6

Attending: Xavier University of Louisiana

Major: Biology Pre-Med



# LAURA PETERS

2020 EAO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**JENA HIGH SCHOOL**

Laura Sheridan Peters is a 2020 graduate of Jena High School, where she maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout her high school career and was named valedictorian of her graduating class. While at JHS, Laura served as a class officer each year, and as a senior, she served as student body president. She was involved in many clubs and organizations during her high school career, such as National Honor Society, Beta Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Anchor Club, Yearbook Staff, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. As a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, Laura competed at various events at the district and state level each year and she advanced to the National competition her freshman year in Marketing. She participated in Literary Rally at the district and state level in American history and Spanish.

Laura also was honored to be elected as an officer in Anchor Club each year and she served the club as president her senior year. Laura was a four-year member of the JHS Gold Duster Dance Team, serving her squad as co-captain during her junior year, and as captain her senior year. As a junior and senior, she was named a Universal Dance Association All-American, and she was selected to perform in the New Year's Day Parade in Rome, Italy. Laura was also a member of the Lady Giants softball team, where she was a three-year letterman. In recognition of her accomplishments, Laura was selected as the Student of the Year for JHS and LaSalle Parish.

## Highlights

GPA: 4.0

Attending: Louisiana State University

Major: Kinesiology with a double minor in Biology and Psychology



# JOCELYN RIVARDE

2020 EAO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**PEARL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL**

Jocelyn Rivarde is a recent graduate of Pearl River High's class of 2020. She graduated as valedictorian with a final GPA of a 4.6. While in high school, Jocelyn participated in three varsity sports, including volleyball, power lifting, and softball. Jocelyn also was an active member of talented theatre and several clubs such as National Honor Society, Student Council, and Global Travelers. She received the honor of Student of the Year during her senior year, and was also a recipient of the Harvey L. Foster award Professional Women of St. Tammany award, and the Chevron Athlete Scholar award. Along with those honors, she was an academic all-state player for volleyball and powerlifting.

Jocelyn is the daughter of Jason and Rebecca Rivarde, two proud parents. She will continue her academic career on an academic scholarship to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She has chosen to major in chemical engineering and to minor in biomedical engineering. She hopes to use her knowledge to help advance the technologies and medicines of the medical field to make the practice of medicine much more efficient and easier for patients and doctors. Jocelyn has extremely high hopes for her future and will continue to reach the high expectations she has set for herself.

## Highlights

GPA: 4.6

Attending: University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Major: Chemical Engineering and minor in Biomedical Engineering



# ABIGAIL RUTLEDGE

2020 EAO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**BENTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Abigail Suzanne Rutledge, the daughter of John Rutledge and Brenda LeChien of Benton, is a 2020 summa cum laude graduate of Benton High School. At Benton High she served as the student body vice president, the junior class vice president and a freshman and a sophomore class senator. She was a member of the National Honor Society. She was a school ambassador Gold Jacket and participated in many clubs including Interact, FCA, the Homecoming and Prom Committee, and the Students Against Destructive Decisions Club. She competed for the Lady Tigers in soccer, cross country, track, volleyball and archery. She is a Louisiana state champion in both bullseye and 3D earning a scholarship and a state champion bow. She trains in Olympic Recurve archery at Hoot and Holler Training Academy and is a two-time Louisiana Vegas champion and a Louisiana Junior Olympic Archery Development state champion. She is also a Level 2 USA archery instructor.

Abigail serves her community in many ways. She is an active member of Benton United Methodist Church where she has served as a Sunday school teacher, assisted with children's sermons and children's church, distributed food and participates in youth ministries. Through BUMC she has participated in mission trips to Chicago and in Appalachia. Abigail is a four-time St. Jude Hero for Memphis marathon weekend while participating in the 5K, 10k and half marathons. She has raised over \$5,000 for the patients of St. Jude. Abigail has received many scholarships from various organizations. In the fall, she will attend Texas A&M University at College Station on an archery scholarship where she will compete with the national champion TAMU Archery Club. She will major in economics in hopes of one day working for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## Highlights

GPA: 4.2

Attending: Texas A&M University

Major: Economics



# JOLAN TAYLOR

2020 EAO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY**

Jolan Taylor, daughter of James and Joette Taylor, is a graduate of St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge. While in high school, she participated in competitive horse riding, chorus, Latin Club, student ambassadors, student ministry, and youth and government club. She received various academic and extracurricular honors while in high school and graduated with a 4.5 grade point average. She currently attends Baylor University and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry. Jolan plans to attend medical school after college and to continue her work in religious organizations. In her free time, she enjoys working with special-needs children at Gaitway Therapeutic Horsemanship and she especially enjoys her time with her dog Belle.

## Highlights

GPA: 4.5

Attending: Baylor University

Major: Biochemistry



# JASMINE TERRELL

2020 EAO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**ZACHARY HIGH SCHOOL**

Jasmine Lanae Terrell is the daughter of James and Sharon Terrell of Zachary, Louisiana. Jasmine is a recent graduate of Zachary High School in Zachary, Louisiana. Jasmine graduated with a 4.43 GPA and ranked ninth in her class. Jasmine was an active member of Future Business Leaders of America, National Honors Society, Key Club, Zachary High Sports Medicine Team, Beta, Baton Rouge Youth Coalition, and University of Southern California Bovard Scholars. In high school, Jasmine received numerous honors and awards including AP Scholar, Regional Young Authors Nonfiction Winner, Principal's List, A/B Honor Roll, 2019 American Auxiliary Legion Louisiana Girls State Delegate, and has won several awards as a Future Business Leader of America member. She enjoys reading, watching TV and movies, and traveling.

In the fall, Jasmine will be attending Howard University in Washington D.C. as a Karsh STEM Scholar Biology Major. Jasmine plans to pursue her Doctorate in Biological Sciences and work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She also hopes to give back by mentoring young underprivileged children in her community.

## Highlights

GPA: 4.4

Attending: Howard University

Major: Biology



# RAVDEEP WARAR

2020 EAO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

## CADDO PARISH MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

Ravdeep Warar is a graduating senior at Caddo Parish Magnet High School in Shreveport, Louisiana. She is the daughter of Manjit and Seema Warar. Ravdeep graduated with a 4.7619 cumulative GPA, being in the top 6 percent of her class, while taking honors and AP courses. She is also an AP Scholar. In school, Ravdeep is actively involved with clubs she loves. She has been doing Mock Trial for four years, went to the state level for three of those, and received Best Attorney awards. She also has a passion for science and has founded her school's Science Bowl club. She is also a member of the Science Olympiad and Mu Alpha Theta club. Ravdeep enjoys giving back to her community, alongside being involved in the National Honor Society, Student Council, Spread the Success, and Key Club. She has served meals for multiple years at the Providence House, tutored at the Lighthouse, and helped give troubled teens in Shreveport another chance by serving as an attorney at Teen Court.

Science is also a passion for Ravdeep outside of school. Ravdeep has been conducting research at the Louisiana Health Sciences Center-Shreveport for two years. She is the participant of the Jumpstart Summer Enrichment Program (JSEP) and the Science and Medicine Academic Research Training (SMART) Program throughout her senior year. Due to the mentorship of Dr. Norman Harris and Dr. Randa Eshaq, Ravdeep attained accolades for her research on diabetic retinopathy. She attended the Louisiana Junior Science and Humanities Symposium as an oral presenter and competed at the Louisiana Regional and State Science Fairs in the category of Translational Medical Sciences. She won first place in her category, and second place overall with a bid to the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), and special awards from the U.S. Metric Association and U.S. Navy/Marine Corps. While working in the Harris Laboratory for a year, Ravdeep was able to become a co-author of two scientific papers published in the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science Journal.

Ravdeep will attend the University of California in Los Angeles and will major in Psychobiology with a minor in Public Health in the Honors College of Letters and Science. After college, she plans to go into the healthcare field as an orthodontist or forensic scientist. Ravdeep hopes to give back to her community and help the people around her.

## Highlights

GPA: 4.7

Attending: University of California in Los Angeles

Major: Psychobiology and minor in Public Health