

Aspire2STEAM.org

Jasmine Richardson Awarded Aspire2STEAM FOUNDER Scholarship

Sonoma State University Biology student is Aspire2STEAM's first recipient of its FOUNDER scholarship award in honor of Nosa Eke and family

ANKENY, IA, UNITED STATES, July 12, 2023. [Aspire2STEAM.org](https://aspire2steam.org), which provides educational scholarships and mentoring to young women and girls who are working toward careers that require education in science, tech, engineering, the arts, or math (STEAM), has awarded Jasmine Richardson its 2023 FOUNDER scholarship.



Jasmine Richardson, Aspire2STEAM FOUNDER scholarship recipient for 2023

Jasmine is a senior at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California, and is pursuing a bachelor of science in Biology. While she plans to pursue a career using her degree, she's equally focused on continuing her work in community service and has a special place in her heart for middle-school students. "When we were considering who we would select for our first FOUNDER scholarship award, we wanted to recognize someone who has a passion for serving others with positivity and joy," said Cheryl O'Donoghue, CEO at Aspire2STEAM.

The annual Aspire2STEAM FOUNDER award is in honor of Nosa Eke, owner and publisher of the Call Center Times, who passed away unexpectedly in 2018. Nosa was a longtime colleague of O'Donoghue who said, "Nosa treated all people with great dignity, humanity, and respect, and when we first founded our nonprofit, he was one of our early champions, connecting us to others in the tech industry who helped us grow our impact. We see that same spirit in Jasmine."

Jasmine's days are filled with her college studies, part-time work, and volunteerism. She's particularly passionate about her work with younger students. For over four years she's worked at a local middle school in Oakland, California, where she supports teachers by helping them grade papers and clean classrooms and tutor students with their homework. "This opportunity has afforded me the ability to see the burdens that many teachers carry and the struggles that many students face," said Jasmine. "I found through my service that I had been given the gift of patience, a gift my mother, a special education teacher, also has."

Through her patience, Jasmine helps students understand the same school material that she, too, had struggled with when she was in school. Said Jasmine, “I was fortunate to have a mother who could take time over the summer to tutor me. This knowledge inspired me to help other students who didn’t understand the material and didn’t have parents to help them.”

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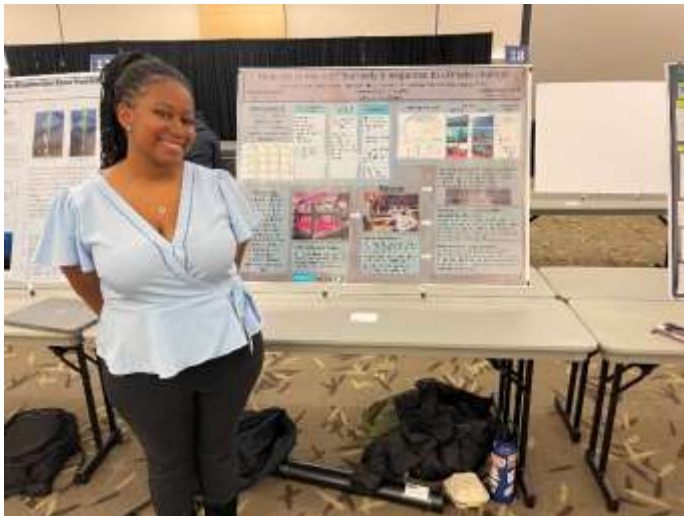
Jasmine Richardson

Jasmine is involved in a variety of programs and projects at Sonoma State University. Currently, she’s

working as a student Research Assistant in Dr. Mackenzie Zippay’s lab to investigate the effect of warming temperature on bull kelp in Bodega Bay (UC Davis’ marine lab). Jasmine also spends focused time as an on-campus Residential Advisor, helping develop a positive living environment for residents by resolving conflicts, promoting academic excellence, addressing

student needs, and encouraging campus extracurricular involvement.

Additionally, she is the Public Relations Vice President for the sorority of Kappa Delta Zeta where she’s in charge of ensuring a positive reputation for her sorority through setting an impeccable example, promoting Greek life on campus, and maintaining the sorority’s website and social media outlets.



Looking to the future, Jasmine is open to several career opportunities and is inspired most by her mother and her

work in education, as well as her father and grandmother who both are entrepreneurs. “My family has guided and helped so many people it has made me want to do the same,” said Jasmine. “I could only wish to leave my impact on the world like my family and help many other people through my time in STEM.”

About Aspire2STEAM

Established in 2018, Aspire2STEAM.org is a charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which has earned Guidestar’s Gold Seal for integrity, transparency, and accountability. Aspire2STEAM provides educational scholarships and mentoring to young women and girls who are working hard— aspiring—to achieve careers that require education in science, tech, engineering, the arts, or math. Aspire2STEAM is committed to helping women



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and girls with a hand up over the incredible barriers of student debt and rising education costs, and the real, ever-present opportunity barriers that keep them out of most male-dominated industries.

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