



GIVEFORWARD

**LEADERS**  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

# MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order & Invocation.....	Eddie Hays, Board Chair
President's Report.....	Leigh Anne Bentley, President
Nominating Committee Report.....	Spencer Pratt
Closing Remarks and Adjournment.....	Eddie Hays, Board Chair



# MAKING LIVES BETTER, TOGETHER.

The **Leaders Education Foundation** was formed by Leaders Credit Union in 2019 as a non-profit 501c3 organization, to **Give Forward** to our community. Giving Forward allows community-minded citizens, members, and organizations to bring educational resources and opportunities to students and educators in West Tennessee.

Leaders Education Foundation believes every community member deserves a champion. Leaders Education Foundation provides **educational grants, scholarships, and resources** to our community that support lifelong learning, workforce development, and education. **We believe in empowering our community for good.**

## IMPACT

By launching the Leaders Education Foundation, and with everyone's help, the impact to our community can be felt far and wide and for years to come. Our goal is to bring educational resources and opportunities to students of all ages and in all walks of life. We plan to create programs and help support other programs that can make the biggest difference. The organization accomplishes this goal by providing:

- Scholarships
- Educator Grants
- Lifelong Educational Opportunities



# Scholarships

The Leaders Education Foundation Scholarship Program launched by awarding \$10,000 to local high school seniors who displayed academic achievement and leadership in their school and community. In our inaugural year of the Leaders Education Foundation Scholarships, we received 26 applications from across West TN.

## **Our Scholarship Winners include:**

A'Zaria Cole - a 2020 graduate of Jackson Central Merry Early College High and is the recipient of the \$2,500 Financial Wellness Video Scholarship.

Naji Combs - a 2020 graduate of Madison Academic High School and is the recipient of the \$1,500 Jackson-Madison County Schools Founders Scholarship.

Halle Jordan - a 2020 graduate of Fayette Academy and is the recipient of a \$1,500 Community Scholarship.

Joe Mego - a 2020 graduate of Madison Academic High School and is the recipient of a \$1,500 Community Scholarship.

Kaitlyn Waites - a 2020 graduate of Obion County Central High School and is the recipient of a \$1,500 Community Scholarship.

John Matthew Lawson - a 2020 graduate of Milan High School and is a recipient of a \$1,500 Community Scholarship.

# 2020 Scholarship Winners



**A'Zaria Cole**

Financial Wellness Video  
Scholarship Winner  
Jackson Central Merry  
Early College High



**Naji Combs**

Jackson Madison County  
Schools Founders Scholarship  
Madison Academic High School



**Halle Jordan**

Community Scholarship  
Fayette Academy



**Joe Mego**

Community Scholarship  
Madison Academic  
High School



**Kaitlyn Waites**

Community Scholarship  
Obion County Central  
High School



**John Matthew Lawson**

Community Scholarship  
Milan High School

# L.E.A.D.S. Educator Grants



L.E.A.D.S. Grants are designed to assist educators who promote initiatives that help students Learn, Experience, Advocate, Dream and Serve. Through the L.E.A.D.S. Educator Grant Program, West Tennessee educators are eligible to enter for an opportunity to win \$1,000. This initiative launches in fall of 2020.

Please follow us on Facebook or visit [www.LeadersGives.org](http://www.LeadersGives.org) to stay updated.

## Lifelong Educational Opportunities

As the Foundation grows, we will be seeking and developing opportunities to support initiatives and programs that will help to fulfill our mission.



# DONATE & BECOME A MEMBER

When an individual or organization chooses to give to the Leaders Education Foundation, their impact can last a lifetime.

Becoming a member of the Leaders Education Foundation means you will make an impact in your community. As a member, your contribution gives you the unique opportunity to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Foundation's membership, as our volunteer Board of Directors outlines how we plan to **Give Forward**. You will be updated through our newsletter with how your membership is directly impacting your local community. You will also have direct access to share the Foundation's scholarships and grants to students or educators who would benefit from these valuable opportunities.

To become a member of the Leaders Education Foundation, visit **LeadersGives.org** and select "Give." Donations of all sizes are appreciated, and you automatically become a member by donating \$10 or more. Donations over the \$10 membership fee may be given in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Leaders Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that allows community-minded individuals, organizations, and other businesses to make a tax-deductible donation.

"Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn, and you will."

**-Vernon Howard**

# LEADERSHIP

The leadership of the Leaders Education Foundation is comprised of a volunteer board of directors donating their time, talent and treasures. Directors were initially appointed by the Foundation's incorporator, Leigh O'Neill. The Foundation is grateful for their service and commitment to help provide resources and opportunities to help launch educational opportunities for community members.

## Board of Directors



**Eddie Hays**  
Chairman



**Ron Hill**  
Vice Chairman  
& Secretary



**Karen Taylor**  
Treasurer



**Stephanie Riley**  
Board Member



**Mary Lou Adams**  
Board Member

## Officers & Volunteer Staff



**Leigh Anne Bentley**  
President



**Leigh O'Neill**  
Vice President

**Luke Simon** - Assistant Treasurer

**Edie Whitman** - Assistant Secretary

**Shea Brown** - Project Coordinator

**Janet Wylie** - Marketing Specialist



# A Message from the President

The Leaders Education Foundation has been a labor of love. To see this last year's effort to structure and develop an organization for the sole purpose of giving forward to the community and enhancing the lives of others already gives us such a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Leaders Credit Union formed the Leaders Education Foundation in 2019 with the purpose of making lives better in our community. I am thankful for the foresight and leadership of the leadership team at Leaders Credit Union and for their desire to make a greater impact in the community through education. Even during a global pandemic and national unrest, we believe that education, as Mandela said is the greatest force to change the world. We are a part of the change by providing educational grants, scholarships, and resources to our community that support lifelong learning, workforce development, and education to teachers and students of all ages. We believe in empowering our community for good.

I encourage everyone to be a part of this organization. By joining or sponsoring the Foundation, it allows community-minded citizens and businesses to partner and support our mission to 'Make lives better, together.'

Kind regards,



**Leigh Anne Bentley**  
President

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."  
**-Nelson Mandela**

# CHARTER SPONSORS & MEMBERS

The Leaders Education Foundation could not have gotten its start without the generosity and commitment from our Corporate Charter Sponsors and Charter Members. We are thankful to our Corporate Charter Sponsors who eagerly joined with us to Give Forward to our community. Our Corporate Charter Sponsors and Members have permanent recognition in the Foundation's records and at the Foundation's office.

## Sustaining Corporate Charter Sponsors:



Town & Country Realtors  
Joey Hale  
Owner & Principal Broker



Ellis Insurance  
Alan Ellis  
Owner & Principal Agent



Leaders Credit Union  
Todd Swims, CEO

\* Gift of \$25,000 & more (\$5,000 per year for five years)

## Advocate Corporate Charter Sponsors:



Confluent Strategies



Open Lending



PSCU

\* Gift of \$5,000 & more (\$1,000 per year for five years)

## Partner Corporate Charter Sponsors:



Nelson SignCo



Jessi Pruett  
Byrd & Byrd  
Attorneys at Law, PLLC- Medina

\*Gift of \$2,500 & more (\$500 per year for five years)

## Charter Members

- Jay Barron
- Leigh Anne Bentley
- Dave & Julie Bratcher
- Shea Brown
- Mike & Megan Bryant
- Keith Busby
- Melanie Bush
- Candi Carter
- Rebecca Casey
- Wendy Clements
- Ryan & Karen Freeman
- Tim Gaffney
- Chris Gray
- Eric Hare
- Kim Hawks
- Eddie Hayes
- Ronald Hill
- Bethany Hyman
- Charles Jackson
- Diane Kelley
- Steve Ladd
- Candace McKinney
- Erin Mitchell
- Cindy Norman
- Leigh O'Neill
- Spencer Pratt
- Stephanie Riley
- Seth Rudd
- Luke Simon
- Todd & Melissa Swims
- Joanne Taylor
- Trent Taylor
- Kenneth & Karen Taylor
- Bart Teague
- Ron Tharpe
- Chad Tillman
- Edie Whitman

\*Gift of \$500 or more in initial year

# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

4/1/2019 - 6/30/2020

## Revenue

Donations – Charter Member Sponsors	\$	11,518.92	26.98%
Donations – Corporate Charter Sponsors		30,048.89	70.38%
Donations – One-Time		600.00	1.41%
Interest Income – Dividends Received		98.63	0.23%
Membership Fees		430.00	1.01%
Total Revenue	\$	42,696.44	100.00%

## Expenses

Advertising and Marketing	\$	400.93	8.92%
Banking Charges & Fees		3.79	0.08%
Filing Fees		20.46	0.46%
Meeting Expenses		163.40	3.64%
Office Supplies		166.07	3.70%
Software Expense		562.89	12.53%
Start-up Costs		275.00	6.12%
Website Expense		2,900.00	64.55%
Total Expenses	\$	4,492.54	100.00%

## Net Income

\$ 38,203.90

# NOMINATION REPORT

The Nominating Committee held a meeting on March 9, 2020. The committee members present were Spencer Pratt, Ron Hill, Stephanie Riley, Todd Swims, and Seth Rudd.

Foundation Board Chair, Eddie Hays, appointed Spencer Pratt to be the Chair of the Leaders Education Foundation Nominating Committee for 2020.

Spencer Pratt called the nominating committee to order and reviewed the Nominating Committee Duties as outlined in the Bylaws. After discussion a motion was made by Seth Rudd and seconded by Todd Swims to recommend to the Leaders Education Foundation members the following Nominees and to propose to the Board the following staggered terms for each of these initial directors:

- |                        |                         |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| • Mrs. Mary Lou Adams  | Initial Term of 1 year  | April 2020 - 2021 |
| • Mrs. Karen Taylor    | Initial Term of 2 years | April 2020 - 2021 |
| • Mrs. Stephanie Riley | Initial Term of 2 years | April 2020 - 2022 |
| • Mr. Ron Hill         | Initial Term of 3 years | April 2020 - 2023 |
| • Mr. Eddie Hays       | Initial Term of 3 years | April 2020 - 2023 |





## CONTACT

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Facebook: Leaders Education Foundation - LeadersGives

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