Meet Our 2026 Bursary Recipients

We are delighted to introduce this year's bursary recipients, whose achievements, determination, and aspirations reflect the promise of the next generation of Vincentian excellence.

JAHMARLEY JOHN, Recipient of the KLC/Eastern Caribbean Freight Lines Bursary



I was born on August 30, 2006, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. At the age of five, I moved to Canada with my mother, who wanted to give me a better life and more opportunities. I grew up in a happy and loving home, and as my younger siblings came along, family became an even bigger part of my life.

I am currently studying Civil Engineering Technology at Humber College in Toronto, and I am proud of how far I have come in my educational journey. Being accepted into college was a major achievement for me, and I have also been fortunate to receive four previous scholarships in recognition of my hard work and potential.

I hope to build a successful career in civil engineering and use my education to give back to the Vincentian and Black Canadian communities. I am truly grateful to be selected as a recipient of the 2026 SVGAT Bursary, and I appreciate the support and encouragement I have received along the way.

ONECIA PHILLIPS, Recipient of the Sonia Seaton Memorial Bursary



Throughout her academic journey, Onecia has pursued her goals with determination and dedication, consistently rising to meet every challenge. Her academic diligence is reflected in her outstanding 3.6 term GPA.

Selected as a recipient of the 2026 SVGAT Bursary, Onecia is deeply honored by this recognition. This will help ease the financial challenges associated with earning and completing a degree at Seneca Polytechnic and allow her to focus on achieving her goals.

She is sincerely grateful for the support in her educational journey and looks forward to completing her degree and building the successful future she has envisioned for herself. One to be defined by achievements, leadership and giving back.



ZARIA NICKIE, Recipient of the St. Vincent and Grenadines (SVGAT) Bursary

"Zaria Nickie is a master's student in School Psychology at Mount Saint Vincent University, dedicated to advancing equity, culturally responsive mental health care, and systemic change in educational and community settings. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Huron at Western University, where she consistently earned academic recognition on the Dean's Honours List.

A published researcher and recipient of the Centre for Undergraduate Research Learning (CURL) Fellowship, Zaria's work explores the intersections of race, identity, and language dynamics in predominantly white spaces. Her equity-focused research contributions extend to collaborative projects on mentorship frameworks, as well as active involvement in housing and racial justice initiatives.

Building on her background in peer mentorship and mental health support, Zaria is currently developing a Black student mentorship program to foster inclusive, supportive environments and empower the next generation of Black scholars and leaders. "

KYLA BAPTISTE, Recipient of the Straight Gate Ministry and SVGAT Bursary



Kyla Baptiste is an undergraduate BA biology student at Wilfrid Laurier University, researching the undervalued area of science regarding women's reproductive health and endocrinology. She is on track to graduate in summer 2027 and hopes to pursue her research dream in graduate studies.

With her connections to the community, Kyla hopes to obtain data regarding the frequency of menstrual abnormalities and uterine issues for black women and girls. Kyla's goal is to educate, inform, and speak up for those who haven't received the support and care they need to navigate difficult reproductive health issues.

Growing up in Pickering, ON, with her large family, Kyla has deep roots in her Durham community and in St Vincent and the Grenadines, where many of her extended family live. Sooner, and hopefully not later, Kyla can't wait to revisit the beautiful island and enjoy her ancestral roots and culture.