

# SCHOLAR Spotlight

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## Scholarships help make one student a vital part of The Herd

**A**n accomplished high school student, the sky was the limit for Chester, Virginia, native Semoni Weaver as she graduated from Thomas Dale High School. But it was the allure of being “One of the Herd” that brought her to Huntington.

“I chose to attend Marshall University because after touring a Green and White day back in September of 2019, that emphasis of what it meant to be ‘One of the Herd’ and a ‘Daughter of Marshall’ was so immersing that I just knew this was the place I wanted to be for the next four years of my undergraduate experience,” Semoni said.

Weaver is majoring in multimedia journalism in the College of Arts and Media with the goal of working in the entertainment industry as a producer.



Semoni Weaver is a sophomore majoring in multimedia journalism.

“At some point, I would love to have my own television production, and this will give me the chance to guide the industry towards even greater prosperity,” she said.

She said her favorite part of being a part of the College of Arts and Media is the fluidity possible with courses.

“I do not feel confined or limited to a set list of courses that I have to take in order to graduate with my degree as a multimedia journalism major,” she said.

Currently, she is taking news reporting, which requires students to write for the school’s independent newspaper, The Parthenon.

“One thing I find interesting about Huntington is the unique life experience of people in this community,” Weaver said. “Ever since I started my news reporting class this year for The

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Parthenon, I have had the privilege of speaking with various individuals around this city and learning about their perspective of life, business and, most importantly, compassion.”

A sophomore, Weaver has already become a valued member of the Marshall University community, as she was named the 2021 Marshall University Diversity Award recipient. Presented by the President’s Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Marshall, the award recognizes students, staff and faculty who have helped cultivate an inclusive campus environment by celebrating, supporting or enhancing diversity on or off campus.

Weaver said this recognition has been her greatest achievement so far.

Semoni is the diversity and inclusion chair for the Delta Zeta sorority, a senator representing her college in the Student Government Association, social media ambassador for the Office of University Communications, and an active member of Black United Students. She recently acquired a position in Housing and Residence Life as a residential advisor and spends time working in Marshall’s thrift store.

She is also the recipient of the Nate Ruffin Memorial Scholarship, one of three scholarships provided by the Black Alumni Association at Marshall. Ruffin played on the Thundering Herd team from 1969 to 1971, leading the Young Thundering Herd following the loss of most of his teammates in the 1970 plane crash.

Weaver said without her scholarships, none of her accomplishments would have been possible.

“They have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus on the most important aspect of school – learning,” she said.

Weaver said those who are able to give toward scholarship funds should do so, because you never know what impact you can make on a student’s life.

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**Follow Semoni’s Marshall journey as a university Social Media Ambassador at #MarshallUSemoni.**