



YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN CHARGE
FOUNDATION, INC.

Alumni Update

Matthew Wilford **YMWIC Class of 2020**

Matthew Wilford, a 2020 YMWIC graduate, fondly remembers his time spent with the Foundation. When asked how we helped to prepare him for life, he responded, "Being a member of YMWIC equipped me with a work ethic, soft skills, and determination. In college, my achievements did not come solely from my academics. The most successful students in college are those who are socially active, get help with their studies, and have a clear focus on their future and present."



After high school graduation Matthew attended Cheyney University, majoring in Computer Science and Liberal Studies with a concentration in Business Analytics. He graduated in the Spring of 2024. He says, "I had a fantastic college experience. Attending the nation's oldest HBCU (Historically Black College and University) afforded so many opportunities. One of my favorite experiences was being chosen to represent my university at HBCU Week, a conference in Washington, DC, held by the White House Initiative on HBCUs. I met government officials, leaders in the HBCU community, and influential figures in Corporate America to advocate for my university and seek career opportunities." Matthew adds, "Attending an HBCU was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I was constantly learning about Black history and surrounded by high achievers who looked like me. I highly recommend applying to HBCUs."

In the near future, Matthew will be moving to Indianapolis where he has accepted a position with Eli Lilly, a healthcare company founded almost 150 years ago that engages in the discovery, development, manufacture and sale of pharmaceutical products, as a Software Engineer. His words of wisdom to current YMWIC Scholars is, "Your grades do not determine your intelligence or possibilities. Growing up, I struggled with math and was often compared to my older sister, who excelled in math. However, I worked hard and received tutoring. Now, I have a degree in Computer Science and am a Software Engineer. You can achieve whatever you want. However, you must believe in yourself, keep working hard, and ask for help."

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