

# FALL | 2021

# PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

"Preparing youth, adults, and their families for successful lives"



## Pathways to Hall of Fame...

On October 14, 2021, Pathways to Success Founder, Fayette Blake, accepted her induction to the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame.

The essence of Fay Blake's life has been about empowering others as she was once empowered herself. This empowerment came from the support of four amazing women in her life, Maggie Matilda Mayfield (grandmother), Grace Taylor (mother), Alice H. Dixon (aunt) and Mildred Deans (aunt) along with grade school teachers who saw past her circumstances and believed in her abilities.

The C.A.R.E (consistent, authentic, respectful, empowerment) they gave her daily helped her overcome her insecurities, move past her mistakes, and bolstered her confidence to achieve, learn and grow. They instilled in her that education was the key. That no matter what anyone in this world could take away from her, the thing they could not take away was her knowledge. "Grab it, grasp it, hold onto it, and use it for good. Not only for yourself, but for others."

This was the inspiration behind Pathways to Success, founded in 2006. For 15 years, Pathways has helped at-risk, underserved students - students like Fay - who need additional support/C.A.R.E. to increase educational attainment, stay in school, graduate, attend college, and be prepared for employment.



This dream, this mission, of giving back and helping others like herself, is her Pathway to the Hall of Fame. She knows there are many more to serve and with the help of her team, that too will become a reality!

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## Success Story

 A student who has overcome adverse circumstances to achieve a positive outcome, learn, grow, and ultimately, thrive. Congratulations to Jawon Sivels who has been selected as our Fall 2021 Success Story. 

### Jawon Sivels

by Alison Blake, PTS Marketing Coordinator

Jawon Sivels enrolled in Pathways to Success as a sophomore at Sussex Technical High School.

Throughout his high school years, Jawon faced challenges personally, emotionally, and academically. He was originally scheduled to graduate in 2014, but ended up having to repeat his senior year as he lacked the credits needed to graduate. Returning for a 5th year, was a big challenge for him to overcome. He struggled with what others would think of him, knowing he was supposed to have graduated but did not.

Today he considers this the 'wake up call' he needed. "It was very humbling. But I don't regret anything, because it made me who I am today."

Jawon credits the consistent guidance from his Pathways' Coordinators and peers who helped him overcome these trials. He was powerfully impacted by the after-school sessions on Thursdays with Pathway's Coordinator, Mr. Bowe. "It was such an open, family environment, where I felt free to consult with my peers about any problems or concerns I had. They guided me through every trial I faced."

Mr. Bowe's leadership and ability to nurture his development led Jawon on a pathway to becoming the person he is today. "From growing up as a kid, watching him, and then him becoming my coordinator, he always knew how to work with me. The guidance he gave me I still cherish now and forever more. He was a great role model for us: A God-fearing, family-first, loving man! I thank God for him."



Jawon crossed the graduation stage in 2015 and has continued to build upon his career and realize his full potential. 4 years ago, he became a Paraprofessional at Milford Central Academy along with the Assistant Boys Basketball Coach.

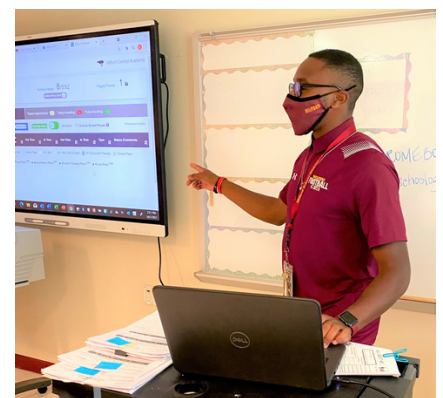
3 years ago he became the Special Teams Coordinator and Running Back Coach for the Milford High School Football Team.

Alongside all of his work with the school district he has held a position as a server for So Del Concepts at Matt's Fish Camp in Lewes, for the past 6 years.





We are so proud of what Jawon has accomplished and the man he has become. He is now in a position to lead and greatly impact others as a coach of two sports teams and through his role as a paraprofessional. He continues to pay it forward, empower others and further the mission of Pathways.

Jawon had some advice for current Pathways to Success Students: "Cherish this program because it's beneficial in so many ways. Cherish being a kid and enjoy the freedom you have. Time is flying by so enjoy life because adulting is not easy. I know everyone's circumstances may be different, but trust and pray to God. Thank Him for everything!"





## Student Spotlight

 Congratulations to all of our Pathways to Success Students selected for our Fall 2021 Student Spotlight. 

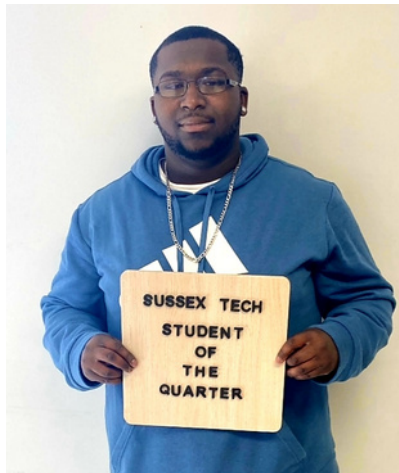
### Tyrese Florestal

by Jacques Bowe, PTS School  
Coordinator, Sussex Tech

I have known Tyrese for three years and I have witnessed his growth into becoming a respectable young man. Entering this academic school year Tyrese had a determination and desire to be the best version of himself.

The last couple of years have been extremely challenging for him. Nevertheless, Tyrese managed to persevere and fight through the adversity. He never gave up.

His effort and his commitment to embrace any obstacle is summed up by a quote from Natalie Comaneci, "I don't run away from a challenge because I am afraid. Instead, I run towards it because the only way to escape fear is to trample it beneath your foot."



**Tyrese | Grade 11 | Sussex Tech**

Tyrese did exactly that; embraced the challenges and worked closely with all his teachers. Now is the time to reap the fruits of his hard work.

Tyrese possesses an excellent work ethic and takes his academic success very seriously. It should go without saying that Tyrese deserves to be the student of the quarter.

### Tips for adults suffering from the Holiday Blues...

- Limit alcohol
- Get plenty of sleep
- Learn to say "no"
- Be open to new traditions
- Get support when mourning a loved one (Celebrate their life!)
- Spend time with your loved ones
- Exercise regularly
- Do something fun!
- Avoid overeating



If you are feeling down, you may want to seek help from a mental health professional.



**Call us! (302-858-4861)**



## Holiday Blues



### A message from Pathways to Well-Being

By Ms. Andrea Waters, LCSW, Pathways to Success



The Holiday Season can trigger many emotions for those of us going through a difficult time. It is hard to see others around us seem so happy, when we are not feeling well mentally or emotionally. We can begin to feel unhappy and discontent with life. We call these feelings the "Holiday Blues" and they can be experienced by everyone. Children often pick up on the feelings of their parent or other family member and take on those feelings themselves.

For those who have lost a loved one, had a sudden disruption or conflict in the family, or face financial strain, the holidays can make these circumstances feel even harder. If you know someone who is suffering from 'Holiday Blues' reach out and offer your support. Parents should encourage their children to explain their sadness or worries without trying to cheer them up. People who are suffering from holiday blues benefit from having someone to listen without judgement.



## Student Spotlight



 Congratulations to all of our Pathways to Success Students selected for our Fall 2021 Student Spotlight. 



### Reagan | Grade 12 | Seaford

Reagan Torbert consistently demonstrates a positive attitude despite her own personal struggles. She is an avid equestrian and has been riding since she was 5. She is recovering from a traumatic riding injury that resulted in serious brain trauma. However, despite this, she is working towards getting back to riding, and finding a job in a career that will allow her to share her love of horses & riding with others. She is always willing and offering to help out when she can. She is open and honest in her communication and shows a true desire to take advantage of the Pathways Program.

### Kyla | Grade 12 | Cape Henlopen

Kyla Corbin has demonstrated that she is very responsible and dependable. She helps the Coordinators with administrative tasks like organizing and filing folders and taking attendance. She has been a great peer counsellor to other students in the program and offers support when they are struggling. Every Thursday she helps with the organization and distribution of Pathways' Cape Henlopen food pantry. She is a role model and a great representation of our program.





### Laniya | Grade 11 | Milford

Laniya Robinson shows outstanding leadership skills and good habits that are preparing her for the future. In classroom discussions, she is interactive and offers great insight into topics that our Pathways' curriculum delivers to the students. She speaks out about topics we have covered and sets a positive example for others in this way. She also demonstrates confidence and leadership on her indoor track and field team. She encourages and inspires the younger students on the team to work hard and do their best. She is an honor roll student.

## Pathways Pathfinder



 One who leads, discovers, and finds a way to show support for our students and our community.   
Congratulations to Jeanine O'Donnell who has been selected as our Fall 2021 Pathfinder.

### Jeanine O'Donnell

by Sarah Gilmour,  
PTS Outreach Coordinator

It all began in 2018, at a meeting at the Pathways to Success office in Georgetown. Jeanine O'Donnell, State Farm agent in Lewes, had arranged a meeting with Executive Director, Fay Blake and Outreach Coordinator, Sarah Gilmour to discuss the mission and vision of Pathways to Success.

Jeanine decided that day she was going help fulfill a need for our students by creating "Snacks for Success." She accepted snack donations at her office and encouraged other businesses to do the same.

Many local businesses came on board and at the end of the designated period, a large donation of healthy snacks was given to Pathways to Success students at all 4 of the high schools we serve.

Jeanine and her team held another 'Snacks for Success' Event in 2019, collaborating with the Sussex County Habitat for Humanity's ReStore and utilizing their outdoor space for a drive-through snack drop-off.



Jeanine has also helped to identify available State Farm grants that Pathways to Success has applied for and received.

"We cannot thank Jeanine enough for all the support she has given to the students we serve over the years. She truly understands the challenges of our students and no doubt has had a direct impact for their success," said Fay Blake, our founder and executive director.

Jeanine was selected as one of our 'Pay It Forward' honorees at our annual awards banquet at The Clubhouse at Baywood in July 2021. This honor was not only for her support of Pathways, but for the support she gives to other local organizations.

Jeanine has another fun event planned this holiday season for Pathways to Success: "Snacks with Santa"! The event will be held indoors at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lewes, on December 10, 2021, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.

Everyone is invited to drop off their donations, visit with Santa, and provide much needed nourishment for our Pathway's to Success students this winter!



In September 2021, the event was held again at Habitat's ReStore in Lewes. Even though it was a rainy fall day, we had a successful turnout of volunteers and donations for the kids.



## Snacks with Santa

Bring your donations of  
healthy, after-school snacks  
and visit with Santa!



**Friday, December 10th**  
**3:00pm - 5:00pm**  
**Habitat for Humanity ReStore**

18501 Stamper Drive, Lewes, DE





# NEW TO PATHWAYS

*New Programs and Services being offered to further our mission...*



## PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS COLLEGE

We inform, educate, empower and support students at Delaware State University by equipping them with real-world skills, successful networks, and resources that will aid them in college and prepare them for life after college.



## Microsoft Office Specialist Training Program

We offer professional training courses and official certification testing **FREE** to adults in our community.



Consider providing this course to your employees, church, or organization.

[www.pathways-2-success.org/adult-cte-programs](http://www.pathways-2-success.org/adult-cte-programs)

Prepare for a  
successful Career.

Increase Earning  
Potential.

Build a Brighter  
Future.

Learn new Skills.



## Peer Support Circle

Life Skills

Self Esteem Building

Field Trips

Conflict Resolution

Mentoring

## DELAWARE GIRLS CIRCLES



Delaware Girls Circles

*Program empowering  
girls grades 9 - 12.  
Offered at all 4 of our  
high schools through  
a grant funded by the  
Delaware Fund for  
Women.*

# PROGRAM UPDATES

*Additional Programs & Services provided to youth, families, and local businesses,*



[www.pathways-2-success.org/well-being](http://www.pathways-2-success.org/well-being)

## *Pathways to Well-Being*

We provide Individual & Family Therapy and Education:

conflict resolution  
coping skills  
self-esteem  
anger management  
healthy ways to have fun  
crisis intervention

## Welcome Ivan Neal, Our new Fair Housing Facilitator/Educator

Retired, Assistance Principle  
of Georgetown Elementary School  
and 37-year career with  
Indian River School District

Mr. Neal is a graduate of the  
University of Delaware (B.S. in Education)  
& Salisbury University  
(M.ed School Administration)

## Pathways to Fair Housing

As an FHIP organization, we provide  
assistance to people who believe they  
may be victims of housing discrimination.

We deliver Fair Housing Training  
presentations to non-profits groups,  
community service centers, homeless  
shelters, churches & state employees.

[www.pathways-2-success.org/fair-housing](http://www.pathways-2-success.org/fair-housing)

## WEX PROGRAM (WORK EXPERIENCE)



[www.pathways-2-success.org/wex-program](http://www.pathways-2-success.org/wex-program)

**A WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM  
DESIGNED TO PREPARE OUR YOUTH  
FOR FUTURE CAREER PATHS..**

### Benefits to Employer:

Wages are Paid for by Pathways

Work Readiness Program Completed

Site Visits & Additional Support Provided

Matched to a position aligned with  
designated Career Path/Goals

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*Upcoming Events and Ways to Get Involved!*



## NYC TRIP

ALL DAY TRIP INCLUDING:  
STATUE OF LIBERTY  
9/11 MEMORIAL  
BROADWAY SHOW  
ICE SKATING AT  
ROCKEFELLER CENTER

SAT  
DEC 18  
2021



**PROOF OF VACCINATION IS REQUIRED TO GO.**

TICKETS AVAILABLE, BUT LIMITED. TO VOLUNTEER-CHAPERONE:  
EMAIL [INFO@PATHWAYS-2-SUCCESS.ORG](mailto:INFO@PATHWAYS-2-SUCCESS.ORG)

## 2022 BOYS SUMMIT

**A life-changing, character-building  
Event for young men in Delaware**

Interested in being a Volunteer,  
Speaker, or Supporter?

Email [info@pathways-2-success.org](mailto:info@pathways-2-success.org)

*Save the Date!*

Our Annual Boys Summit  
will be held at the Crossroads  
Community Church  
Thursday, April 7th, 2022  
9:00am - 2:00pm

## community volunteer & mentorship program

- Volunteer for an Event, Fundraiser, Field Trip, or Youth Summit
- Mentor students in an After-School Program
- Tutor students in a subject area of your expertise
- Provide professional or cultural experiences for students in your area of expertise



More info at [www.pathways-2-success.org/volunteer](http://www.pathways-2-success.org/volunteer)