

CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois

Paving the Way for Tomorrow's CPAs



RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

Jennile O'Connor

Jennile's remarkable journey to achieving the CPA credential is one of perseverance and triumph. Born in Jamaica, she immigrated to the U.S. with her family at the age of 11. Shortly after the move, her father passed away, leaving her mother as the family's sole provider. Despite her mom's tremendous sacrifices, navigating a new country and periods of financial instability were unbearable at times. As a result, Jennile was left with an even more challenging path toward pursuing her educational and career goals.

While balancing new family responsibilities and demanding coursework, Jennile was determined to seek help with funding a proper education and finding a stable job. Fortunately, she persisted and was accepted into our Internship Prep Program. Over the years, she also received tuition, laptop, and student ambassador scholarships. These opportunities provided her with the financial relief and motivation she needed to complete her bachelor's degree, master's degree, and ultimately pass all four CPA exams on her first attempt!

Jennile's story is a reminder of the transformative impact we can have on the lives of students with the drive and talent to succeed in the profession, but not the financial resources. Encouraged by this support, Jennile plans to mentor aspiring CPAs to ensure that more promising accounting students can realize their potential. Considering the adversity she's overcome, and all she's achieved, it's unthinkable that her journey could have been even more tumultuous had it not been for the generosity of donors like you.

We're so proud of Jennile and can't wait to see what's next for her!



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