

Nadiyah Bell



Nadiyah Bell, a recipient of the 2020 R.W. Sorrell \$3,000 four-year renewable scholarship, will be attending Howard University in the Fall majoring in Civil Engineering. She hopes to make a difference in communities that need better roads, bridges and cleaner water. Nadiyah has a strong commitment to community service and a sense of loyalty to family and community that is admirable. Nadiyah stated that “I have always had a desire to help people and that is why I make time to give back to my community.” This budding community advocate sees herself as a change agent and believes she can facilitate the kind of change the world needs.

Nadiyah is a 2020 graduate of Cheltenham High School where she proved to be a strong performance scholar with a 3.6 GPA. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Black Scholars Program, Algebra II Tutor and a member of the Black Student Union and Environmental Club. Her extracurricular activities included leadership responsibilities such as the Cheerleading Squad Captain for the 2019/2020 school year where she managed a team of 30 cheerleaders. During this same time period, she was Captain of the Blue and Gold Dance Team where she was responsible for creating and choreographing a dance battle routine for 20 students. Nadiyah is a dancer with Limitless Performing Arts in Philadelphia. She studied various forms of dance since the age of 3, including Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, Hip Hop and Pointe. She also competed in various styles of dance - solo, duo, trio and group routines.

Nadiyah currently works at Cathedral Village, a retirement community in Philadelphia, as a waitress greeting residents in the dining room and providing an A+ dining experience. She continued to work as an essential worker during the pandemic. Nadiyah stated that “If I did not work I would be doing the residents a disservice, and if I see them as family the pandemic should not be an excuse.” She has developed a bond with the residents and views them as family. Despite Covid 19 concerns, Nadiyah continued to show up to work and works extra hours to assist her co-workers.

Volunteer activities include Wiley Adult Day Care Center where she serves meals and assist with daily activities for veterans and disabled senior citizens. Nadiyah has provided volunteer services for some of Philadelphia’s most notable events such as Girls on the Run, Philadelphia Marathon, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, Bancroft, Food Bank of New Jersey and the MLK Day of Service. ■