

Bryson Cherry



Bryson Cherry, is a 2024 distinguished honor roll student and proud graduate of Upper Merion Area High School. While attending Upper Merion Area High School, he excelled in the Gifted Program, was a member of the varsity basketball and football teams, the National Honor Society and the Black Student Union. Bryson has been accepted to **North Carolina A & T State University** where he plans to pursue a degree in Business Finance and Sports Management which will allow him to follow his passion of intersecting business and sports. This career choice was fueled largely by losing a close childhood friend in elementary school to a sudden brain aneurysm. The loss of his basketball playmate profoundly shaped his outlook on life and led him to reflect on how he could affect meaningful changes in sports, and empower others to lead healthier lives. Bryson believes that a players' physical, mental and emotional well-being is just as important as the game itself. He is described as a young man with an entrepreneurial spirit and is the founder of "B3," a non-profit entity with a mission to enhance athletes' acumen of the business of sports.

Through demonstration of academic performance, leadership roles and community service engagement projects, which we place a great value on, the RW Sorrell Scholarship Fund awarded Bryson a four (4) year renewable scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 annually.

Bryson is a positive, motivated and disciplined young man who cares about others, and has demonstrated the ability to adapt to changes and life's challenges. Disappointed after a knee injury during his senior year that ended his high school basketball career and sidelined him for a season in football, Bryson found other ways to participate and support his team. He served as a player-coach for the basketball team that he led as Captain during the 2021-2022 season; provided financial literacy training to aspiring college players (FAFSA applications) and mentored young athletes on and off court. One of Bryson's most meaningful community service activities was through his local Jack and Jill of America chapter where he served as a Teen Executive Board Member and actively participated in multiple service engagements. One Chapter activity included providing Covid 19 vaccines and booster shots to under-served communities. This summer Bryson will be leading his own health initiative, called, "Be Well, U.M." bringing healthcare screening services directly to the Upper Merion community. Community members will be able to undergo health checks, screenings and testings just before a regular high school sporting event, and get results by the end of event. This further demonstrates Bryson's ongoing commitment to positively impact others.

Bryson also took the initiative to hone his communication skills to better advocate for himself and others by dedicating three years to earn the Toastmasters International Competent Communicator Award. Bryson believes that the lessons he has learned through challenges he has faced, is that "resilience, dedication, and passion will always help see you through, and once you discover your gifts and talents, they should be shared with others. ■