



INAUGURAL GREATER PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE RESILIENCE AWARD RECIPIENT PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Greater Philadelphia, March 23, 2026 - The Greater Philadelphia College Resilience Award presented by Onward, Undergrad! has been established to recognize the strength, perseverance, and determination of undergraduate students within the 5 counties of the area (Philadelphia, Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, and Chester).

We are proud to announce Markee Marshall, a senior from Cheyney University, as the inaugural recipient of this award. Markee's rise from modest beginnings to aspiring lawyer, along with his determination to utilize the resources at Cheyney, provide an exemplary example for college students across the nation.

"The Greater Philadelphia College Resilience Award recognizes the strength that so many students demonstrate to keep pushing forward in spite of challenges and obstacles," says Dr. Marcus T. Wright, founder of the Onward, Undergrad! Initiative. "Markee Marshall has faced such challenges head-on, and continues to grow because of them. His story is an inspiration for college students everywhere, and it's an honor to have him as the inaugural recipient of this award."

"This caught me off guard," Markee stated upon learning of the honor. "I am blessed."

Dr. Janelle West, Dean of the Honors Academy at Cheyney, notes, "Markee's journey is a reminder that while doors may open, it's what you choose to do once you step through them that matters most. His success didn't happen by chance, it's the result of his resilience, his courage to take risks, and his decision to keep moving forward, even when it wasn't easy. I am very proud of him."

Markee will receive a custom plaque, a signed copy of Dr. Wright's book, *Onward, Undergrad! How to Crush Self-Defeating Thoughts in College*, and a virtual mentor session with Dr. Wright himself.

Onward, Undergrad! – an initiative under the mental health and wellbeing practice Design Meets Mind, LLC – helps undergraduates embrace themselves as strong individuals worthy of powerful college experiences. As part of this mission, we highlight individuals who have persisted through obstacles and challenges to serve as examples and inspirations for students of all backgrounds. The initiative is inspired by Dr. Wright's book of the same name, which provides guidance for undergraduate students on how to overcome self-defeating thoughts and flourish in college.

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For more on Onward, Undergrad!, visit: www.onwardundergrad.com