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EDUCATION

# Gucci names inaugural class of Gucci North America Changemakers Scholars to give leg-up to fashion-career aspirants

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*2020 class of Gucci North America Changemakers Scholars*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Italian fashion label Gucci has announced the inaugural 2020 class of Gucci North America Changemakers Scholars as part of its $1.5 million scholarship program to help financially strapped undergraduates pursue a career in fashion.

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The 20 recipients hail from diverse backgrounds, aiming for varying careers within fashion at undergraduate colleges and universities. Each recipient gets an academic scholarship for up to $20,000 as well as mentorship and virtual internship chances at Gucci America.

"As education is vital to implementing real change and ensuring diverse voices are in positions of power, it is more important than ever to foster the next generation of talent," said Antoine Phillips, vice president of brand and culture engagement at Gucci, in a statement.

"I loved learning about each inspiring applicant along with our Changemakers Council and we are excited to see what they do next and how they help transform the fashion industry," he said.

Launch and learn

The Gucci North America Changemakers Scholarship program was created in March 2019. It is an initiative featured on the recently relaunched Gucci Equilibrium platform that outlines the Kering-owned company's aim to generate positive change for people and planet.

The program primarily focuses on students from diverse backgrounds who live or study in one of the 12 Gucci North America Changemakers cities: Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Toronto and Washington. It also includes those who plan to attend or currently attend a Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

That said, all students who meet the eligibility criteria are able to apply and be considered for an award, per Gucci.

Gucci over six months tapped its North America Changemakers Council of community leaders and social change experts to make the final selection of the students for the scholarship program.

Also, under the Changemakers umbrella, Gucci has named two recipients of the Gucci North America Changemakers x CFDA Scholars By Design program.

The program supports two diverse graduating high school seniors who plan to study fashion design at an accredited four-year undergraduate college or university. This award is $20,000 per year for four years for both scholars.

The Gucci North American Changemakers Council comprises Antoine Phillips, Bethann Hardison, Brandice Daniel, Brittany Packnett, Cleo Wade, Dapper Dan, Dawinder S. Sidhu, DeRay McKesson, Eric Avila, Csar E. Chvez, Ivy McGregor, June Ambrose, Kimberly Blackwell, Michaela Angela Davis, Naomi Campbell, Rene E. Tirado, Robert Carter, Sara Kozlowski, Will.i.am, Yaseen Eldik, Yasmeen Hassan and Yvette Noel-Schure.

The next round of applications for the Gucci North America Changemakers Scholarship Program opens this fall.

Here is the list of the inaugural Gucci North America Changemakers Scholars:

- Astrid Viera, currently a high school senior who will be attending Mt. San Jacinto College
- Celeste Haselrig, currently a college freshman attending Parsons
- Destinee Elliott, currently a college freshman attending Thomas Jefferson University
- Diop Russell, currently a college sophomore attending Spelman College
- Fabiola Lopez, currently a college freshman attending Azusa Pacific University
- Gabrielle DeLeon, currently a college freshman attending FIT
- Gideon Gomm, currently a college freshman attending Parsons
- Jasmine Bacchus, currently a college junior at Brown University
- Kaitlyn Gilliam, currently a college junior at Howard University
- Kristian Brown, currently a college sophomore at FIT
- Malachi Williams, currently a high school senior who will be attending Hunter College
- Marcus Williams, currently a college sophomore at University of Southern California: School of Cinematic Arts & Marshall School of Business
- Marie France Mendy, currently a college sophomore at Cornell University
- Maya Davis, currently a high school senior who will be attending Bowling Green State University
- Miles Richards, currently a high school senior who will be attending College for Creative Studies Detroit
- Nailah Barnes, currently a college sophomore at Spelman College
- Nicole Scott, currently a college freshman at the University of Cincinnati
- Sekoi Cooper, currently a college junior at Parsons
- Glory Lee, currently a college freshman at Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design
- Trevon Barnes, currently a college sophomore at FIT

Recipients of Gucci North America Changemakers x CFDA Scholars By Design:

- Ajai Kasim, currently a high school senior who will be attending Parsons
- Kaya Ugorji, currently a high school senior who will be attending FIT

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