

A large teal triangle pointing to the right, positioned on the left side of the page.

# GIVEFORWARD

**LEADERS**  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**2020** ANNUAL REPORT

# MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order & Invocation.....	Eddie Hays, Board Chair
Approval of Minutes.....	Eddie Hays, Board Chair
Chair’s Report.....	Eddie Hays, Board Chair
President’s Report.....	Leigh Anne Bentley, President
Nominating Committee Report.....	Ron Hill, Vice Chair & Secretary
Closing Remarks and Adjournment.....	Eddie Hays, Board Chair



# MAKING LIVES BETTER, TOGETHER.

The **Leaders Education Foundation** was formed by Leaders Credit Union in 2019 as a non-profit 501c3 organization to **Give Forward** to our community. Giving Forward allows community-minded citizens, members, and organizations to bring educational resources and opportunities to students and educators in West Tennessee.

Leaders Education Foundation believes every community member deserves a champion. Leaders Education Foundation provides **educational grants, scholarships, and resources** to our community that supports lifelong learning, workforce development, and education. **We believe in empowering our community for good.**

## IMPACT

By launching the Leaders Education Foundation, and with everyone's help, the impact on our community can be felt far and wide and for years to come. Our goal is to bring educational resources and opportunities to students of all ages and in all walks of life. We plan to create programs and help support other programs that can make the biggest difference. The organization accomplishes this goal by providing:

- Scholarships
- Educator Grants
- Program Grants
- Lifelong Educational Opportunities



# 2020 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Chair Eddie Hays called the 1st Annual Membership meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. at 1490 Union University Parkway, Jackson, TN. He explained that due to the COVID-19 national pandemic, the meeting is being conducted virtually with a limited in-person audience of Education Foundation Staff and Board Members.

Chair Eddie Hays led the invocation.

Chair Eddie Hays called upon Secretary Ron Hill to determine whether a quorum was present. Secretary Hill confirmed that a quorum was present.

Chair Eddie Hays introduced the initial board members that were appointed by the Foundation's incorporator, Leigh O'Neill.

- Mr. Ron Hill, Vice Chair and Secretary
- Mrs. Karen Taylor, Treasurer
- Ms. Stephanie Riley
- Mrs. Mary Lou Adams

He stated that the Board has been responsible for overseeing the formation of the Foundation which included activities such as reviewing and ratifying the Incorporator's actions; reviewing and accepting the Foundation's Charter including its Amendment; reviewing, revising, and adopting the Foundation's Bylaws; and reviewing, revising, and adopting the Foundation's policies and practices in fulfillment of the Foundation's mission. A motion was made and duly seconded from the floor to ratify the Board's formation actions. The motion carried and the Board's formation actions have been approved, confirmed, and ratified.

Chair Eddie Hays called upon Foundation President, Mrs. Leigh Anne Bentley, for the President's Report. President Bentley stated that education is the greatest force to change the world even amid a global pandemic and national unrest. She said that the Leaders Education Foundation wants to be that change by providing educational grants, scholarships, and resources to our community that supports lifelong learning, workforce development, and education to teachers and students of all ages. She thanked the Corporate Charter Sponsors and Charter Members for their generosity and commitment. The highest level of sponsorship is the Sustaining Corporate Charter Sponsors and they include:

- Town & Country Realtors – Joey Hale, Owner & Principal Broker
- Ellis Insurance – Alan Ellis, Owner & Principal Agent
- Leaders Credit Union – Todd Swims, CEO

Advocate Corporate Sponsors include:

- Confluent Strategies
- Open Lending
- PSCU

Partner Corporate Charter Sponsors include:

- Nelson Sign Co. – Matt Nelson
- Jessi Prueff, Byrd & Byrd, Attorneys at Law, PLLC, Medina, TN

Founding Charter Members include 37 individuals who have donated a minimum of \$500 each to be a founding Charter Member of the Foundation. A complete list of our Charter Members can be found in the 2019 Annual Report located at [www.leadersgives.org](http://www.leadersgives.org).

President Bentley reported that Leaders Education Foundation's Scholarship Program launched in early 2020 to award \$10,000 to high school seniors who displayed academic achievement and leadership in their school and community. The winners of these scholarships are:

- \$2,500 Financial Wellness Video Scholarship - A'Zaria Cole, Jackson Central Merry Early College High
- \$1,500 Jackson-Madison County School Founders' Scholarship - Naji Combs, Madison Academic High
- \$1,500 Community Scholarship - Halle Jordan, Fayette Academy
- \$1,500 Community Scholarship - Joey Mego, Madison Academic High School
- \$1,500 Community Scholarship - Kaitlyn Waites, Obion County Central High School
- \$1,500 Community Scholarship - John Matthew Lawson, Milan High School

She concluded by thanking all of the Corporate Charter Sponsors and Charter Members who have so generously donated to support the Foundation's launch and its programs. She then turned the meeting over to the Nominating Committee Chair, Mr. Spencer Pratt.

Mr. Spencer Pratt, Nominating Committee Chair, introduced the Nominating Committee who were appointed by Board Chair, Eddie Hays. In addition to himself, the 2020 Nominating Committee consisted of Board members Ron Hill and Stephanie Riley as well as Foundation Members Todd Swims and Seth Rudd. The Nominating Committee made the following nominations for the Foundation's Directors:

- Mrs. Mary Lou Adams, 1-year term (April 2020 – 2021)
- Mrs. Karen Taylor, 2-year term (April 2020 – 2022)
- Mrs. Stephanie Riley, 2-year term (April 2020 – 2022)
- Mr. Ron Hill, 3-year term (April 2020 – 2023)
- Mr. Eddie Hays, 3-year term (April 2020 – 2023)

Chair Eddie Hays thanked Mr. Pratt and the other members of the 2020 Nominating Committee. There being no further nominations, he asked for a motion to accept these nominees. Todd Swims made a motion to accept the nominations, with Leigh O'Neill seconding the motion. The motion carried.

Chair Eddie Hays thanked everyone for joining virtually this evening for the 1st Annual Membership meeting. With no other business to be discussed, Mrs. Karen Taylor made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ron Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Hill, Secretary

Eddie Hays, Chair



# L.E.A.D.S. EDUCATOR GRANTS



L.E.A.D.S. Grants are designed to assist educators who promote initiatives that help students Learn, Experience, Advocate, Dream, and Serve. Through the L.E.A.D.S. Educator Grant Program, West Tennessee educators are eligible to enter for an opportunity to win \$1,000. This initiative launched in the fall of 2020.

## **Congratulations to the top 10 finalists winning a \$1,000 L.E.A.D.S. Educator Grant:**

- Matthew Barker, Freed-Hardeman University
- Todd Lewis, Chester County Junior High School
- Kyle Gehring, Bradford High School
- Dr. Callie Dollar, Community Montessori School
- Brittany Fowler, West Carroll Elementary School
- Sarah Hubbard, Elmore Park Elementary School
- David Sinclair, South Side High School
- Linda Lane, Madison Academic High School
- Nathan Lewis, JCM-Early College High School
- Angela Searcy, Jackson-Madison County Schools

Please follow us on Facebook or visit [LeadersGives.org](https://LeadersGives.org) to stay updated.



# SCHOLARSHIPS

Leaders Education Foundation Scholarship Program awarded twelve scholarships totaling \$15,000 to local high school seniors who displayed academic achievement and leadership in their school and community. We received 43 applications. The Financial Wellness Video Scholarship received six submissions, and the videos were viewed over 11,000 times, reaching over 20,000 people.

## Our 2021 Scholarship Winners are:

- **\$2,500 Financial Wellness Video Scholarship** - Andrew Hilliard - Crockett County High School
- **\$2,000 Financial Wellness Video Scholarship** - Honorable Mention - Ingram Lickliter - Milan High School
- **\$1,000 Leaders Credit Union Martha Britt Scholarship** - Madison May - Jackson Central Merry - Early College High School
- **\$1,000 Town & Country Realtors Scholarship** - Michael Tankersley - Augustine School
- **\$1,000 Ellis Insurance Scholarship** - McKenna Beaver - South Gibson County High School
- **\$1,500 Jackson-Madison County Schools Founder's Scholarship** - Elliana McCauley - Madison Academic High School
- **\$1,000 Community Scholarship** - Gibson County - Blair Mercer - Bradford High School
- **\$1,000 Community Scholarship** - Obion County - Samantha George - Union City High School
- **\$1,000 Community Scholarship** - Shelby County - Allison Lampley - Bartlett High School
- **\$1,000 Community Scholarship** - West Tennessee - Rachel Hellums - University School of Jackson
- **\$1,000 Community Scholarship** - West Tennessee - Twanisha Hopings - North Side High School
- **\$1,000 Community Scholarship** - West Tennessee - Alexa Goff - South Side High School

# 2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**Andrew Hilliard**

\$2,500 Financial Wellness Video  
Scholarship Winner  
Crockett County High School



**Ingram Lickliter**

\$2,000 Financial Wellness Video  
Honorable Mention  
Milan High School



**Madison May**

\$1,000 Leaders Credit Union  
Martha Britt Scholarship Winner  
Jackson Central Merry -  
Early College High School



**Michael Tankersley**

\$1,000 Town & Country  
Realtors Scholarship  
Augustine School



**McKenna Beaver**

\$1,000 Ellis Insurance Scholarship  
South Gibson County  
High School



**Elliana McCauley**

\$1,500 Jackson-Madison County  
Schools Founder's Scholarship  
Madison Academic High School



**"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." -Nelson Mandela**



**Blair Mercer**

\$1,000 Community Scholarship -  
Gibson County  
Bradford High School



**Samantha George**

\$1,000 Community Scholarship -  
Obion County  
Union City High School



**Allison Lampley**

\$1,000 Community Scholarship -  
Shelby County  
Bartlett High School



**Rachel Hellums**

\$1,000 Community Scholarship -  
West Tennessee  
University School of Jackson



**Twanisha Hopings**

\$1,000 Community Scholarship -  
West Tennessee  
North Side High School



**Alexa Goff**

\$1,000 Community Scholarship -  
West Tennessee  
South Side High School

# DONATE & BECOME A MEMBER

When an individual or organization chooses to give to the Leaders Education Foundation, their impact can last a lifetime.

Becoming a member of the Leaders Education Foundation means you will make an impact in your community. As a member, your contribution gives you the unique opportunity to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Foundation's membership, and learn how we plan to **Give Forward**. You will be updated through a social media newsletter and/or other publications with how your membership is directly impacting your local community. You will also have direct access to share the Foundation's scholarships and grants to students or educators who would benefit from these valuable opportunities.

To become a member of the Leaders Education Foundation, visit **LeadersGives.org** and select "Give." Donations of all sizes are appreciated, and you automatically become a member with a one-time \$10 membership fee. Donations over the \$10 membership fee may be given in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Leaders Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that allows community-minded individuals, organizations, and other businesses to make a tax-deductible donation.

"Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn, and you will."

**-Vernon Howard**

# LEADERSHIP

The leadership of the Leaders Education Foundation is comprised of a volunteer Board of Directors donating their time, talent and treasures. The Foundation is grateful for their service and commitment to help provide resources and opportunities to help launch educational opportunities for community members.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Eddie Hays**  
Chairman



**Ron Hill**  
Vice Chairman  
& Secretary



**Karen Taylor**  
Treasurer



**Stephanie Riley**  
Board Member



**Mary Lou Adams**  
Board Member

## OFFICERS & VOLUNTEER STAFF



**Leigh Anne Bentley**  
President



**Leigh O'Neill**  
Vice President

**Taylor Risley** - Assistant Treasurer

**Edie Whitman** - Assistant Secretary

**Shea Brown** - Project Coordinator

**Janet Wylie** - Marketing Specialist

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Even amid challenges, this year has been exceptional in many ways. Each individual in our community has felt the impact of the Global Pandemic. Not only have front line workers sacrificed for our communities, but local educators and students have excelled amidst the many challenges of a pandemic year. I appreciate our Board of Directors and volunteers giving forward to help others. To our educators throughout West Tennessee: Thank you for giving forward to your students, families, and communities this past year. To students in West Tennessee: thank you for navigating uncertain times and for working diligently to achieve your goals. As a burgeoning nonprofit, I am pleased and proud that in 2020, we were able to provide aid and support in the following ways:

- Awarded \$10,000 in Scholarships to High School Seniors
- Awarded \$10,000 in L.E.A.D.S. Grants to Educators
- Welcomed over 150 new Foundation members
- Participated in Giving Tuesday with a \$20,000 donation match by Leaders Credit Union
- Recognized our Corporate Charter Sponsors with appreciation plaques and promotions on social media and local news outlets
- Recognized our Charter Members with commemorative paperweights

Thank you for uniting with us in support of our mission of Making Lives Better, Together.

Kind regards,



Leigh Anne Bentley  
President

We believe every child, educator,  
and community member  
deserves **a champion.**

# CHARTER SPONSORS & MEMBERS

The Leaders Education Foundation could not have gotten its start without the generosity and commitment from our Corporate Charter Sponsors and Charter Members. We are thankful to our Corporate Charter Sponsors who eagerly joined with us to Give Forward to our community. Our Corporate Charter Sponsors and Charter Members have permanent recognition in the Foundation's records and at the Foundation's office.

**Founding Corporate Charter Sponsor:** \*Gift of \$100,000 & more (\$25,000 per year for five years)



Leaders Credit Union  
Todd Swims, CEO

**Sustaining Corporate Charter Sponsors:** \*Gift of \$25,000 & more (\$5,000 per year for five years)



Town & Country Realtors  
Joey Hale  
Owner & Principal Broker



Ellis Insurance  
Alan Ellis  
Owner & Principal Agent

**Advocate Corporate Charter Sponsors:** \*Gift of \$5,000 & more (\$1,000 per year for five years)





**Partner Corporate Charter Sponsors:** \*Gift of \$2,500 & more (\$500 per year for five years)



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020

Revenue			
Donations – Charter Members	\$	16,499.01	32.39%
Donations – Corporate Charter Sponsors		29,548.89	58.01%
Donations – One-Time		4,004.64	7.86%
Interest Income – Dividends Received		224.15	0.44%
Membership Fees		660.00	1.30%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>50,936.69</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Expenses			
Advertising & Marketing	\$	3,225.99	19.47%
Banking Charges & Fees		10.49	0.05%
Filing Fees		133.81	0.62%
Insurance		777.00	3.58%
LEADS Grants		9,600.00	39.61%
Meeting Expenses		477.67	2.20%
Office Supplies		166.07	0.76%
Other Business Expenses		126.00	0.58%
Software Expense		793.12	3.65%
Website Expense		6,400.00	29.48%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,710.15</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>29,226.54</b>	

\*Net Income does not reflect \$10,000 donated by Leaders Credit Union for the 2020 scholarships as it was written directly to the 2020 scholarship recipients, but was given in the Foundation's name.

# NOMINATION REPORT

The Nominating Committee held a meeting on March 9, 2021. The committee members present were Spencer Pratt, Ron Hill, Karen Taylor, Karen Freeman, and Seth Rudd.

Foundation Board Chair, Eddie Hays, appointed Ron Hill to be the Chair of the Leaders Education Foundation Nominating Committee for 2021.

Ron Hill called the nominating committee to order and reviewed the Nominating Committee Duties as outlined in the Bylaws. After discussion, a motion was made by Karen Taylor and seconded by Seth Rudd to recommend to the Foundation’s Board to do the following:

Increase the size of the Foundation’s Board to seven (7) Directors by adding two (2) additional Directors with one new Director serving an initial term of one (1) year and the other new Director serving an initial term of three (3) years.

The Nominating Committee also recommends to the Foundation’s members the following:

Mrs. Mary Lou Adams	Second Term	April 2021 - 2024
Mrs. Eddie Mae Pirtle	Initial Term of 1 year	April 2021 - 2022
Ms. Yvette Blue	Initial Term of 3 years	April 2021 - 2024





## CONTACT

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