



# SPARK

INSPIRING THE FUTURE

**SPARK Class 2 August 8-12, 2022**

PRESENTED BY

**Deloitte.**

SUPPORTING SPONSORS

 **AXIENT**

**UAH**MBA



**MISSION:** Identifying, educating, connecting, and inspiring leaders to serve our community.

**VISION:** An inclusive community of enlightened and engaged servant leaders.

IDENTIFY EDUCATE INSPIRE CONNECT

## Special thanks to our 2022-2023 COMMUNITY TRUSTEES



Booz | Allen | Hamilton



**2022-2023**

## LEGACY LEVEL MEMBERS

Shannon Drake, L-25, MA-11

Jim Diehl, F-22, L-26

Charlie Blass, L-23, M-7, F-17

Quisha Bryant, C-14

Tammie Terry, L-23

Kyla Kelly, C-17

Jennie Robinson, L-13

Paula Cushman, M-1

Linda Akenhead, L-13, M-5

Hank Isenberg, L-28

Diana King, F-36

David King, F-10

Susan Anderson, L-14, F-1

Vincent Boles, L-25

Shannon Neblett, L-33

Zach Griffin, S-2

Acacia Moore, F-40, MA-12

Steve Lessmann, L-34

Alice Lessmann, L-32

Lori Light, L-14

Nilmini Thompson, L-34

Sonia Robinson, C-3, L-31

Steven Conway, L-35

Joe Alexander, F-3, L-15, M-4

Pam Alexander, F-11, L-23

Sherry Stutts, M-4

Taron Thorpe, L-25

Lauren Battle, C-17

Drew Battle, C-11, MA-6, L-33

Dr. Amanda Barnes, C-21, MA-10

James Ross, F-37, L-33

Ashley Engles Ross, F-38

Kristine Harding, L-14

Tim Strait, F-40

Kelli Powers, L-33

Carey Miller, F-29, L-28

Nick Vickerson, MA-11

Joe Yearta, L-29

Melony Yearta, F-42

Bekah Schmitt, MA-9

Bob Berinato, L-24

Courtney Johnson, C-18

Lisa Abbott, F-7, L-22

Julian Butler

Kim Caudle Lewis, C-3

Sarah Savage-Jones, L-11



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## SPARK CLASS 2 DIRECTORY

**We are thrilled to introduce the second-ever Spark Class, S-2. These 39 students come from 13 different colleges and universities located across the state and country.**

UAH - The University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Calhoun Community College  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Alabama A&M University  
The University of Alabama  
Athens State University  
UNA- University of North Alabama

Auburn University  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Vanderbilt University  
Clemson University  
University of South Alabama

### Special thanks to our Spark Planning Committee!



**Mark Zesinger**

Manager, Core Business Operations  
Deloitte Consulting, LLP  
MA-2, F-38



**ShaVonne Cammack**

Sr. Consultant/ITSM Lead  
Deloitte GPS  
Deloitte Consulting, LLP



**Joanna White**

Development & Operations  
Director  
HATCH Huntsville  
C-22



**Karessa Acosta Lee**

Senior Coordinator for Inclusive  
Programs & Student Leadership  
The University of Alabama in  
Huntsville  
C-13



**Phillip Ray**

Pathways System Engineer  
Northrop Grumman  
S-1



**Katelyn Sides Baker**

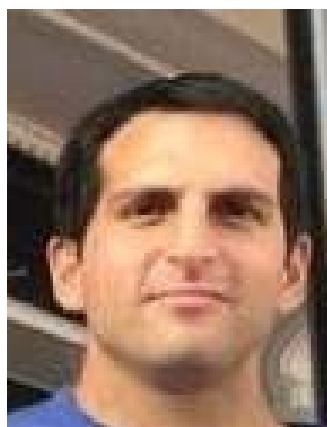
Alumni, Focus & Spark Program  
Director  
Leadership Greater Huntsville  
C-19



## Chandler Armagost

### University of South Alabama | Recent Grad | Information Technology

My name is Chandler Armagost, and I grew up in Montgomery, Alabama. I graduated from Saint James High School and then went to the University of South Alabama in Mobile. I graduated from South in 2022 with a degree in Information Technology. I have now moved up here to Huntsville to pursue a career in IT.



## Ramsey Batshone

### University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Senior | Nursing

I am an Arab American that moved to the United States when I was 6 years old. I am someone that cares deeply about the less fortunate. I want to dedicate my life to serving others which is why I am now pursuing a career as a nurse. I am a member of the Army and am currently applying to Officer Candidate School. I have a passion for healthcare and improving the community around me.



## Tyler Berry

### University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Senior Supply Chain Management and Human Resource Management

During my time here at UAH, I have started my own clothing brand, Amore Clothing Brand, and have also been a Resident Assistant for the Charger Village Addition dormitory. I have also recently been offered a supply chain management internship for PDC Brands. My goal is to market my business to the extent that I can begin to hire individuals that are less fortunate and to bring more attention to creative arts in the North Alabama area.



## Mary Boggs

### Calhoun Community College | Junior | Business

My name is Mary Boggs, and I am a student of accounting and psychology. I was born and raised in Huntsville. I am passionate about my family, community, and the preservation of local lands for the enjoyment of generations to come. I have paid for my college education and housing without taking out any loans by working hard and managing my finances efficiently. In my free time, I enjoy cooking meals for my friends, outdoor sports, reading, and helping with my parent's garden.





## Aaron Davis

### University of Colorado Boulder | Graduate Student | Data Science

I'm a 23-year-old who has lived all over the USA. I have a BS in Computer Science, and two years of experience working as a mechanical design engineer. I'm now pursuing my master's degree in data science because I love learning about artificial intelligence and how to ethically use it! My current specific interests include the ethical issues of mapping human data to latent spaces (ask me about it, and I'll talk forever). I would love to revolutionize the mechanical design field by creating a generative machine learning algorithm that can create easily manufacturable designs!



## Gabrielle Dotch

### Alabama A&M University | Recent Grad | Criminal Justice

My name is Gabrielle Dotch, and I am a native of Mobile, Alabama, where Mardi Gras was created. Throughout my life, I have always wanted to be able to extend my help to others. Helping others to me is a form of giving back to my community and planting knowledge in others who possesses a similar future as my own. Being from a big, yet small town has allowed me to witness things that I could never imagine would influence my future career. Being a pillar and leader in my community is very important to me because it gives me the opportunity to learn and also interact with others that have common similarities.



## Jeff English

### University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Graduate Student Digital Marketing & Information Systems

My name is Jeffrey William English, and I am a Graduate Student at UAH. I currently work at the UAH's Center for Cybersecurity Research & Education and I am a program lead for an SMDC-led program called the SUCCEED program, which trains college to high-school level participants from lower socio-economic brackets for federal internships and positions. I also operate a small web development/digital marketing business on the side, and I am hoping for more growth in the future when I am able to focus on it more.



## Bella Etheredge

### The University of Alabama | Junior | Marketing

My name is Isabella, and I am from Florence, Alabama. I'm a sophomore at The University of Alabama where I'm majoring in marketing with a minor in News Media. I currently work part-time as a childcare worker at First Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, AL. My goal is to graduate from The University of Alabama in the Spring of 2024, and attend graduate school in the Fall of 2024 where I plan to get my MBA in Marketing.



## Zach Griffin

### **Athens State University | Senior | Management**

I have lived in Athens, Alabama my whole life so far. I have two siblings, both brothers. The oldest, who is married, will be making me an uncle in a few short months. I am involved in several activities and organizations at ASU, including the student chapters of SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) and Delta Mu Delta, a business honor society, the National Society for Leadership and Success, and the Athenian Ambassadors, a student volunteer group that acts as the face of the university. I also work as a work-study for the College of Business as well. I am a people person who enjoys meeting and talking to anyone and everyone I can! I actually live right down the road from Athens State.



## Alencia Hall

### **University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Junior Aerospace Engineering**

My name is Alencia Hall. I am a Junior Aerospace Engineering major from Memphis, Tennessee. I am passionate about helping my community and promoting steps and tools that will help launch us mentally and economically into a better status. I am family-oriented and I enjoy participating in community service projects. I currently hold the office of Vice President for the Omicron Gamma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and within that role, I help organize events and programs that focus on variety of points that we feel requires special attention.



## Kaitlynn Haynes

### **University of North Alabama (UNA) | Graduate Student Business Management**

My name is Kaitlynn, but most of my friends call me Kait! I am a twenty-something that holds North Alabama near and dear to my heart. I am currently a full-time student and part-time intern in the Shoals. I spend most of my time doing school work, but when I find a few free minutes, I spend them with my friends! We typically go hiking or watch Netflix and eat dinner. I love to read and have been teaching myself how to bake, sew, and knit since March of 2020. I'm still not very good at knitting and sewing, but I like to think I'm good at baking! I am very family-oriented and I have a puppy named Harper!



## Amber Hinton

### **University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Recent Grad Communication Arts**

My name is Amber Hinton and I am a senior majoring in Communication Arts with a concentration in Public Relations. After graduating in May 2022, I plan to attend graduate school in the fall. This semester, I had the privilege to work as a Communications Consultant Intern for Alabama Power studying utility companies' content and trends. I am a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and served as chapter president in 2020-2021. A fun fact about me is that I was a part of the group of students who helped resurrect the NAACP Chapter at UAH.



## Emily Holliday

### University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Graduate Student Business Management and Professional Communication

Emily Holliday is concurrently working towards a minor in Global Studies and a Masters in Professional Communications. The daughter of a retired Army colonel, she moved around frequently with her family before settling in Huntsville in 2016. In 2017, Emily began working at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center as an Administrative Intern. She was subsequently promoted to serve as an Administrative Assistant in the Office of the CEO in 2018. After graduation, she plans to continue working as an administrative professional in the Tennessee Valley region.



## Truett Hope

### Calhoun Community College | Sophomore | Cyber Security

My name is Truett Hope. I currently work at the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering. I am a very easy going person, I also like to play video games. Along with playing video games I really enjoy working and getting to know new people within the community. I am currently attending Calhoun Community College and will be transferring to the University of Alabama in Huntsville in the Fall of 2023. I am currently majoring in Information Systems with a Cyber Security concentration.



## Isaiah Horn

### Alabama A&M University | Sophomore | Criminal Justice

My name is Isaiah Horn I am a freshman at Alabama A&M University. I was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama so that means I have a good idea of how life is in Alabama. I major in criminal justice and I am passionate about legal affairs in minority and disparaged communities. One thing I hope to do is be a leader in my community and help better my environment because I was once told to be the change I want to see. I am very passionate about my community and Youth efforts.



## Yanjie Horton

### University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Junior | Finance and Acquisitions Management

I give a 110% effort into any endeavor. My enthusiasm for learning is exemplified through perseverance because I am not deterred by difficult tasks. I have been selected as a 2022 U.S. House of Representatives Intern in Washington, D.C. I am so excited to be able to learn and actively participate in the process of government. I am a rising junior at UAH majoring in Finance and Acquisitions Management. I enjoy cooking, baking, and reading in my free time.

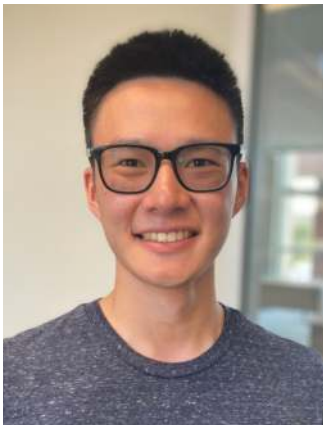




## Christine Howard-Eshmawi

### Calhoun Community College | Sophomore | Nursing

I have recently relocated to Huntsville from California. For the last ten years, I have worked as a graphic designer. In 2019 I lost my mom and in 2021 I lost my dad. Their deaths inspired me to change my career to nursing. My parents instilled strong values of service, justice, and working hard in my life and I want to continue their legacy. These are also values I want to pass down to my two-year-old son.



## Ryan Huynh

### University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Senior | Biology

I want to learn how to cooperate with a team while also understanding and building my own independence. Working in a team, I can bounce ideas to another, which will allow me to see a new perspective(s) to solve a situation. Understanding and building my own independence allows me to discover my strengths and weaknesses while also implementing my biological science skills into my ideas to create specific needed changes in our community. Thank you for taking the time to read my short biography about myself. I wish you all a beautiful day ahead!



## Matthew Jeyapaul

### University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Senior | Computer Science

My name is Matthew Jeyapaul, and I am a rising senior at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. I am a Computer Science major with a concentration in Cybersecurity and a minor in Mathematics. I am currently interning at Dynetics for the Mechanical Design and Systems Engineering Department. During the semester, I am always on campus either studying or working on assignments. Outside of academics, I actively pursue my hobbies of fitness and playing the guitar. From a young age, physical and mental health have been instilled in me, and I find this through fitness or learning new music on the guitar. Outside of the time I make for myself, I spend time with my friends.



## Taylor Jordan

### Athens State University | Senior | Biology

I have lived in Skyline, AL since I was first born. I have a little girl, Amelia, whom I love spending my free time with. I also love being outdoors, crafting, and gardening. I haven't decided what I want to do after graduation, but I know I will get there eventually!



## Hunter Langemo

### **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University | Senior Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering**

As someone that has lived in the Pacific Northwest, the South west (Arizona), and the South (Arizona and Florida), I have a vast array of experiences. I am a Department of Defense SMART Scholar and SMART Scholar Ambassador, working on my Aerospace Engineering Degree undergrad and Mechanical Engineering graduate degree. I love to be outdoors and ride dirt bikes, bicycles, hike, fish, and enjoy nature. Under my contract with the DoD, I will intern at the Redstone Arsenal Base in Huntsville, AL for summers 2021, 2022, and 2023. Additionally, I will live there full-time from 2024-2028. I am very excited to live in the South year-round!



## Sam Light

### **The University of Alabama | Junior | Business/Accounting**

I am a native of Huntsville, Alabama, born at Crestwood Medical Center. I have lived here my entire life. I graduated from Grissom High School in 2020. Like others my age, my senior year was cut short due to the pandemic. My freshman year at UA was also unique with online classes with little to no social activities. We all missed out on a lot of "coming of age" activities but now that the pandemic has died down some, I hope to make up for lost time and experiences. I am majoring in Accounting at UA and as I said previously, my plan is to return to Huntsville after graduation to start my career here. I am very grateful that my mother, father, and brother are very supportive of me and my efforts to learn and grow into a responsible adult and citizen.



## Caroline Little

### **University of Tennessee at Chattanooga | Senior | Marketing**

I was born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama. My father, David Little has been a huge model for me, showing what it looks like to be a leader in a community and staying involved. I grew up playing sports and I have found my true passion which is Pickleball. I have worked with Huntsville Sports Association, Huntsville parks&rec, and Touronimo. I also have my own art business painting custom watercolor. Which has been such a fun and successful small business for me. I have loved seeing my town grow into what it is now and happy that I get to call Huntsville, Alabama my forever home!



## Joe McInvale

### **Vanderbilt University | Senior | Electrical Engineering**

My name is Joe McInvale, and I was born in Blacksburg, Virginia to a military family, and have since then lived in Tennessee, New York, and now Alabama. I spent most of my childhood living on base at the United States Military Academy up in West Point where my dad worked as a math instructor for cadets. Growing up at West Point, I got to interact with the cadets, officers, and families that lived in the local community, building unique relationships and life skills that have shaped me into who I am today. Picking up hobbies like vocal performance, tennis, and a love for math and science along the way, I've grown to become a versatile leader who strives to come up with creative and innovative solutions that address modern world problems.



## Cecilia Arreola Miranda

**University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Junior | Computer Science**

My name is Cecilia, I am a current student at Calhoun Community college seeking a bachelor's degree in computer science. I am a first-generation college student funding myself through college while working as a server. My parents immigrated from Mexico to the United States when I was seven years old seeking a better future for my siblings and me. I am taking my basics at Calhoun to then transfer to UAH.



## Adam Mistretta

**Clemson University | Senior | Mechanical Engineering**

I have lived in Florida for most of my life. While in Florida, I participated in sports, played music, and served in my community. After high school, I went to Clemson University to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. While in school, I applied for the SMART scholarship program through the Department of Defense and ended up receiving the award. As a result, I was hired and assigned to the Missile Defense Agency in Huntsville, where I cannot wait to start pursuing my career in the North Alabama area.



## Ruben Ortiz

**University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Senior | Finance**

I would describe myself as someone who is always looking to improve, in all aspects of my life. Whether it be with my career, family, relationships, passions, creativity, intelligence, etc. I stay open-minded and I'm willing to self-reflect. I can be competitive at times and other times not at all. It depends on what the situation is really. I value having a strong healthy lifestyle and taking care of my body. I believe in respecting everyone regardless of their beliefs or lifestyle. I think that I am a friendly and likable person.



## Luke Orwick

**University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Senior  
Aerospace Engineering**

My name is Luke Orwick and I am originally from Lexington Kentucky and moved to Huntsville approximately 2 years ago. I was originally in college working towards a biology degree to get into medical school but after 2 years of it, I decided I have way too much of an engineer's brain to put myself through 15 years of medical school. So I didn't have any plan after that but things lined up and my science teacher from middle school randomly called me one day and reminded me about our class trip to space camp here in Huntsville and about a great Aerospace engineering school here named UAH.





## Danielle Reed

### Calhoun Community College | Sophomore | Psychology

I am a very active student at Calhoun Community College. I am president of the Phi Theta Kappa chapter (an international honors society) at Calhoun, in addition to holding a regional position for the state of Alabama. I am in the Presidential Honor's Program at my college and plan to transfer to the University of Alabama in the fall. I spend a lot of time volunteering with Madison County Virtual Academy in Huntsville, AL. School and work keeps me pretty busy, but I have big goals for myself and I think this program could be very beneficial for them.



## Kat Sanders

### University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Senior | Civil Engineering

My name is Katharyn Sanders and I am a junior Civil Engineering major at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. I am from Scottsboro, Alabama, and attended Scottsboro High School. I grew up on Lake Guntersville and I enjoy boating, water skiing, and swimming in the lake. I am a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and an active member of the Lambda Kappa chapter of Delta Zeta. I have two Goldendoodles, named Hampton and Lulu, and one adorable cat named Salem.



## Char Shelton

### Athens State University | Recent Grad | Accounting

Acharian (Char) Shelton is a charismatic, larger-than-life person. A recent newlywed to a Madison City School Teacher and Coach, she wants to become more involved in the community. As the communications director for Athens State 2021-2022 Accounting Club, she commits to helping other students like her succeed. A leader at work and in school she thrives on engagement and development. Acharian is a very detail-oriented person whose motto is "no task is too big or too small".



## Starletta Strickland

### Athens State University | Senior | Business Administration

I am a student at Athens State University. I have a nineteen-year-old daughter who is attending college as well. I have researched this program and want to be a part of it. I am glad that they were there at the job fair. It was a pleasure meeting Shannon Drake. She suggested that I should be part of the "Mentor and Mentee Program. I am excited to and ready to embark on this new journey. So I hope you guys give me the opportunity to be a part of this program.





## Eirian Waldron

### University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Senior Public Affairs in STEM

My name is Eirian! I would describe myself as optimistic, passionate, and easy-going. I was born and raised in South Carolina in a little-big college town called Hartsville. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs in STEM at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and I'm working on my undergraduate thesis analyzing American societal perceptions of PTSD in veterans through portrayals in film and television. I pride myself on two things: my dedication to following through completely with every commitment I make and my ability to connect with just about anyone I meet.



## Asia Walker

### Calhoun Community College | Junior | Psychology

My name is Asia Walker. My major is Psychology at Calhoun Community College, where I will graduate this May and transfer to Alabama A&M University to close off with my bachelor's. I am currently working as a GDIT Security Specialist. I am the Service project leader for the Young Adult Ministry at my church, the Youth co-chair, and a worship leader. We do community service projects year-round. I am huge on the community and also being a therapist for African American girls and women. Also, I plan on interning at the First lady Empowerment inc foundation to help build young women's empowerment. I would be grateful for this opportunity to be around so many big-name leaders so I can learn, network, and put myself out there.



## Dwight Ware

### Auburn University | Sophomore | Software Engineering

I am a rising sophomore majoring in software engineering at Auburn University. I am looking to work as a Software developer and possibly an AI/ML Engineer. Beyond that, though, I want to develop products and then build successful companies out of them. My main strength is Strategic thinking (my top 5 StrengthsFinder strengths were in this category). I'm good at looking at something and logically breaking it down and enjoy solving problems.



## Hannalyn Wilks

### University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) | Senior Management, BSBA - General Management Concentration

Hannalyn Wilks is a dedicated and ambitious student from Madison, Alabama who loves to read and theorize philosophy, quantum physics, legal works, and many other subjects. She is the eldest daughter (and middle child) of her family and has two other siblings that also live in Madison County. She currently attends the University of Alabama in Huntsville as an undergraduate Management major and plans to attend law school. She loves to analyze artwork, spend time in nature, advocate for people's rights, and play board games with her friends. When not in class or studying, Hannalyn Wilks works as a paralegal.



## Jade Williams

### **Calhoun Community College | Sophomore | Cyber Security**

I was born and raised in Huntsville, and a 2021 honors graduate of Madison County High School. Currently, I am a sophomore at Calhoun Community College pursuing a degree in Computer Information Systems with a Concentration in Cyber Security. I enjoy shopping, creating designs for the small business my mother and I have, and keeping the score clock at basketball games while my father referees. I am a member of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church where I have blossomed in my spiritual walk which has been supplemented with the teachings of Pastor Michael Todd. I am a great listener as well as an excellent communicator who cares about the thoughts and concerns of others and make my suggestions known in a respectful manner.