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Howard High graduate named Apple HBCU Scholar



Howard High graduate Khaliq Satchell (left) and his classmate at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina were two of 30 students selected for the Apple HBCU Scholars program. Satchell, who is currently a junior, will receive up to \$25,000 in scholarship money for his senior year. (Kesha Williams/ECSU /)

By **Lisa Philip · Contact Reporter**

Howard County Times

DECEMBER 11, 2015, 6:00 AM

When Columbia native Khaliq Satchell applied to the Apple HBCU Scholars Program, he was skeptical about his chances.

"Of all the people who applied, I was the underdog," said the 2012 Howard High School graduate. "I didn't think I would be chosen for the program. I just felt like there were a ton more people who were more qualified than me. I guess I was just underestimating myself."

Satchell, a junior at **Elizabeth City State University** in North Carolina, was one of 30 students from historically black colleges and universities around the country who were selected for the program. Only one other student at his college was accepted.

"I was shocked," he said. "It was hard to express anything, because it was unexpected."

As an Apple HBCU, or historically black colleges and universities, scholar, Satchell will receive up to \$25,000 in scholarship money for his senior year and participate in a summer internship at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, Calif. During the next school year, Satchell will have the opportunity to participate in a career preparation program and he will be paired with a mentor from Apple.

"I'm excited about a lot of things, mainly about being able to go to Apple HQ and work with those wonderful people," he said. "I met a few people last month and they were amazing. They're just fun people to be around. And it's going to be a learning experience for me when I go, and I feel like I'll be able to accomplish a lot while I'm there."

When Satchell first applied to college, he was planning on majoring in graphic design. But Elizabeth City State offered him a scholarship to study computer science.

"I had dabbled in programming at Howard High," he said. "I thought I could try it and see if I liked it. I never thought I would, but I did. I enjoy computer science very much."

Satchell said that he is more interested in the scientific than the business side of computers. He helps with research projects at his school's Center of Excellence in Research Sensing Education and Research.

"What I did last spring — I worked on a project using [unmanned aerial vehicles] to survey archaeological sites," he said, "to show how the use of UAVs was beneficial."

The Apple HBCU Scholars Program resulted from a partnership between Apple and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, an organization that has awarded more than \$250 million in assistance to historically black colleges and universities and their students since its founding in 1987.

As part of the partnership, called the Diversity Initiative, Apple has committed \$40 million over multiple years to supporting students and faculty at four-year historically black colleges and universities.

In order to apply to the Scholars program, Satchell had to take a test, answer timed questions on a video recording and interview with members of Apple's software department.

According to the program website, applicants were judged based on whether or not they had "critical soft skills that enable success in our program, coupled with technical ability." The soft skills included motivation and the ability to work with others, while technical skills covered the ability to analyze and learn new concepts.

"I'm glad that I applied, because I ended up getting in," Satchell said. "The overall program has me

pretty excited."

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