



## **Bibb County School District**

**Department of Communications / Community & School Affairs**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PAIR OF DISTRICT STUDENTS NAMED GATES SCHOLARS**

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(MACON, GA) – A pair of Bibb County School District seniors was recently named Gates Scholars. Howard High School’s Nyah Clifton and Southwest High School’s Tatiana Traore received this honor, making them two of just 750 Gates Scholars nationwide.

Clifton, who is also Howard’s salutatorian, has participated in a variety of activities during her high school career. She is vice president of community service for the school’s chapter of Future Business Leaders of America and creative director for Howard’s newspaper, “The Husky Howler.” She has also won the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Youth Citizenship Award, College Board’s AP Scholar Award, and College Board’s African American National Recognition Award. Clifton plans to major in Film and Television at Savannah College of Art and Design in the fall.

Traore is Southwest’s valedictorian for the Class of 2023 and serves as captain for the school’s Mock Trial team. She has also served as president of Skills USA, DECA, the cheerleading team and various other student organizations. Through dual enrollment in Central Georgia Technical College, Traore has earned her Law Technician Certification and poll worker certification as part of Southwest’s Law Academy Program. Additionally, Traore was nominated for the Golden Eagle Award for CTAE and recognized as Southwest’s CTAE Student of the Year. In the fall, she plans to attend Howard University and major in political science.

An initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Gates Scholarship recognizes outstanding minority high school seniors that exhibit leadership qualities. The scholarship will cover the full cost of college attendance that is not covered by other financial aid and the expected family contribution based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

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*Vision: Each student will demonstrate strength of character and will be college or career ready.*

*Mission: The Bibb County School District develops a highly trained staff and an engaged community dedicated to educating each student for a 21st century global society.*