

Meet a 2020-2021 Clarence E. Ridley Scholar

Recently, TCMA asked 2020-2021 Clarence E. Ridley Scholar **Jasmine Johnson** to introduce herself on the TCMA Facebook. Here is what Jasmine had to share:

My interest in local government is personal. I have a vested interest in the underdog to win and overcome any obstacle in their way. The name of the game is equity and inclusion makes my purpose as a servant leader possible.

As I enter my second year of graduate school to get my master of public affairs degree, I must say I have been overwhelmed. I get emails every day that another one of my co-workers or classmates has contracted COVID-19. My thoughts and prayers are definitely with all of the families affected. Along with many other departments, we had budget cuts, and I had to take on the work of 3 people. Each day I am grateful for the opportunity to be better and learn new skills. It's scary, but I have remained resilient. I am enjoying my public management class and the dialogues we have. I am grateful for the TCMA Charles Ridley Scholarship, and I feel like I can climb a mountain knowing my TCMA family believes in me. I desire to make my TCMA family proud.

Recently, I helped produce a virtual training for Employee Resource Groups on campus. The President of my University recognized the hard work we are doing and all employees to have time dedicated to working on ERG activities. I am in the process of planning a summit honoring National Disabilities Employee Awareness Month and advocating for inclusive access for all. Additionally, I am designing an award show celebrating Women Leading in Diversity.

It does take a village, especially in times such as this, and I am keeping hope in my heart to my fellow future city managers in this professional development fight with me. We are all going to come out of this more robust than ever before.