

# THE AKOYA

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Norfolk Pearls Foundation of Virginia, Incorporated Newsletter

Norfolk Pearls  
Foundation of Virginia  
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Carla Perry, Chairman



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## Chairman's Message *In the Know...*



Greetings and Welcome!

The Norfolk Pearls Foundation of Virginia, Incorporated issued its inaugural newsletter in 2022. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of our newsletter's title—**The Akoya**—and share some interesting facts about the akoya pearl taken from the web article—*Understanding Akoya Pearls – The Complete Guide*.

Akoya pearls, the first to be successfully cultured, are known for their classic elegance. For over a century, Akoya pearls have set the benchmark for luster and beauty in the jewelry industry.

Akoya pearls are often associated with the image of a traditional pearl. Many jewelry enthusiasts include Akoya pearl jewelry, such as a graduated pearl necklace or Akoya pearl ear studs, as part of their collection.

**What are Akoya Pearls?** Akoya pearls are known for their sharp luster, round shapes, and various colors and overtones. These pearls are produced by the Pinctada Fucata oyster, a type of saltwater mollusk.

Akoya pearls are notable for being the first cultured pearls. In 1890, Kokichi Mikimoto established the first cultured pearl farm in Japan.

**Taking Care of Akoya Pearls.** Akoya pearls, being organic gems, require more delicate care compared to other gems such as diamonds and sapphires.

The rule for wearing pearls is "last on and first off." It is recommended to put on your pearls after applying make-up, hair spray, or perfume. Additionally, pearls should be the first item of your outfit to be removed before you start cleansing and washing your face.

Sweat contains acid that can damage the nacre of an Akoya pearl, resulting in a dull appearance. It is advisable not to wear pearls during rigorous workouts or high-intensity physical activities where sweating is likely.

It is recommended to wipe pearls with a soft, clean cloth before storing them in a jewelry box. The cloth can be slightly damp or dry. Pearls should be stored in a soft cloth pouch to protect them from scratches. Metal jewelry with sharp facets and corners can damage the surface of pearls if stored together.



Check your pearl necklaces and bracelets annually. If the knots are loose, the silk thread frayed, or the knots dirty, have them restrung to prevent breakage and retain their beauty.

Avoid wearing pearls in the shower or pool, as soap and chlorine can harm their luster. Submerging necklaces and bracelets in water can damage the silk thread and knots.

Avoid cleaning pearls with ultrasonic or steam cleaners. If they appear dirty, wipe them gently with a clean, soft, damp cloth and dry immediately with another soft cloth to prevent moisture from affecting the silk knots. For a more thorough and deeper cleaning, take your pearl jewelry pieces to your jeweler.

<https://thecultureofpearls.com/akoya-pearls-buying-guide/>

**The Norfolk Pearls Foundation** plays an essential role in furthering the mission of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Iota Omega Chapter by fostering collaborations with organizations that share our values. The Akoya pearl represents NPFV's identity, worth, and mission. We aim to be a leading, esteemed foundation. Our values are priceless. Our members are cultured, sophisticated, refined, and well-educated.

As articulated in our mission statement, we strive to be a leading entity in Hampton Roads by addressing the social and emotional needs of families. We promote continued education by providing scholarships to high school graduates and undergraduates attending Norfolk State University and Old Dominion University. We are a community of pearls!

As a 501(c)(3) organization, we depend on grant funding and donations to offer educational workshops, community fairs, and scholarships. Additionally, fundraising activities are a vital means of securing financial support for our philanthropic initiatives.

For more Information about our activities and to make a donation, please visit [www.npfv.org](http://www.npfv.org). Please follow us on Facebook. We look forward to welcoming you at our 2025 fundraising event, The Harlem Renaissance Masquerade Gala.

So, now you are *In the Know*.

Enjoy *The Akoya!*

Cheers!

*Carla*

Carla Perry, Chairman

THE  
HARLEM  
RENAISSANCE  
MASQUERADE GALA

NOVEMBER 8, 2025  
NORFOLK WATERSIDE MARRIOTT  
6 PM - 11 PM

FEATURING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM  
THE CHAMPAGNE BAND AND  
DJ PRECISE AND ILLMATIC

TICKETS: \$125

## Congratulations 2025 Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients!



Laura Gray Brown  
Kappa Gamma  
Undergraduate Scholarship

awarded to

**Alaina Wallace**

Old Dominion University

Major: Pre-Med

Awarded : \$1,500



Thelma Hayes Delta Epsilon  
Undergraduate Scholarship

awarded to

**Isabella Malave Norman**

Norfolk State University

Major: Political Science/  
Pre-Law

Awarded : \$1,500

# Congratulations 2025 High School Scholarship Recipients!

*Vivian Carter Mason Community Scholarship awarded to*



**Myla Sanderson**

Graduate: First Colonial High School

Attending: Howard University

Major: Forensic Psychiatry

Awarded: \$3,000.00

*Hermione Williams Jackson HBCU Scholarship awarded to*

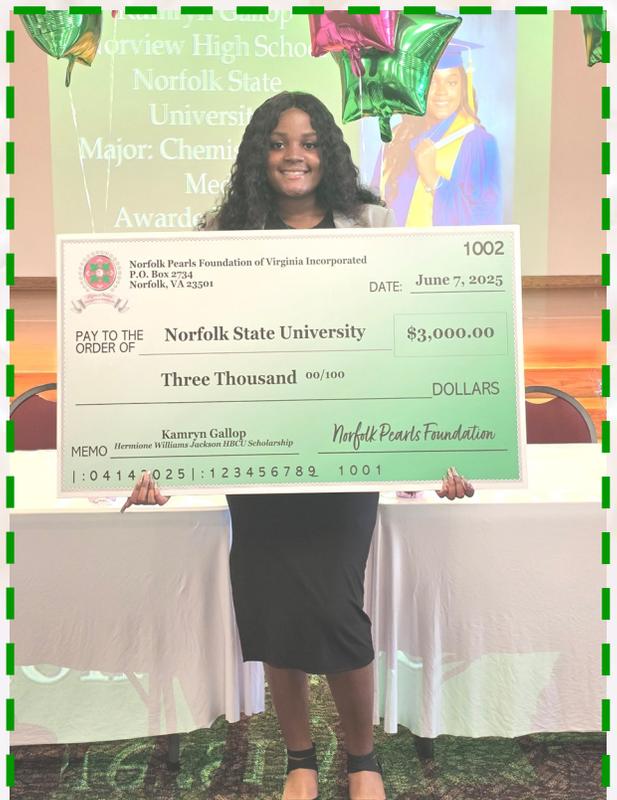
**Kamryn Gallop**

Graduate: Norview High School

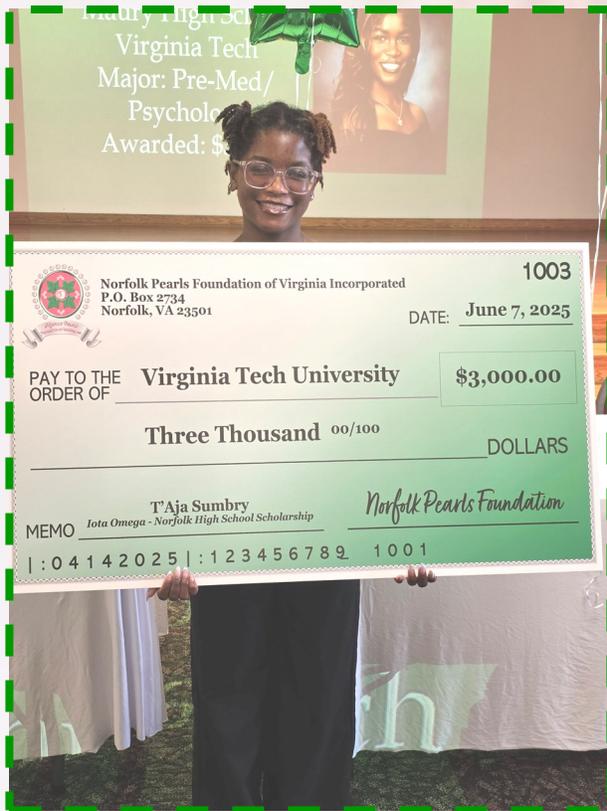
Attending: Norfolk State University

Major: Chemistry/Pre-Med

Awarded: \$3,000.00



# Iota Omega Chapter High School Scholarship awarded to



**T'Aja Sumbury**

**Graduate: Maury High School**

**Attending: Virginia Tech**

**Major: Pre-Med/  
Psychology**

**Awarded: \$3,000.00**



**High School Scholarship Celebration ~ June 7, 2025  
Mt. Gilead Baptist Church ~ Norfolk VA.**

Mrs. Ingrid Wilson, Scholarship Committee Chairman, and Mrs. Carla Perry, Chairman of Norfolk Pearls Foundation of Virginia, and the Scholarship Committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated® Iota Omega Chapter met with the 2025 high school graduates and their families to present mock scholarship checks and gifts cards. These students are outstanding scholars who have excelled academically in their schools, participated in multiple extracurricular activities and served in their communities.

# Community Involvement in Partnerships and Service

Area II NAACP ACT-SO Talent Showcase ~ June 27, 2025 ~ First Baptist Lamberts Point



Directors Ashley Yelity, JaNae Taylor, Carla Perry and Chenequa Hayden attended the dress rehearsal for the talent showcase. It was an evening dedicated to

celebrating the creativity, excellence, and passion of eight students participants sharing their talents in spoken word, music, dramatics, writing, and dance. These students will compete in the 48th National ACT-SO Competition in Charlotte, NC, from July 9 - 13, 2025. Norfolk Pearls Foundation is a Golden sponsor, donating \$500.00.



**Partners in Service ~ Norfolk Public Schools Administration Bldg. ~ June 30, 2025**  
Norfolk Pearls Foundation is a sponsor for Unity in the City Back to School event, donating \$1000.00. The celebration will be held on August 9, 2025.



Ashley Yelity, Allison Davis, Carla Perry, Kimberly Pierce, LaEunice Featherston, Demetrius Fowlkes, JaNae Taylor, and Tamara Cornick

### **Community Pearls of Service with Iota Omega Chapter**



Iota Omega Chapter  
Donates and Provides 63 meals to the Foodbank  
Delivered by members of the Uplift Our Local Community committee on March 11

## Community Pearls of Service with Iota Omega Chapter

Uplift Our Local  
Community committee  
members volunteering at  
Berkley Community Feed  
on June 3



### *Board of Directors 2025*



**Mrs. Carla Perry**  
Chairman



**Dr. JaNaé Taylor**  
Vice-Chairman



**Dr. Melanie Patterson**  
Secretary



**Ms. Allison J. Davis**  
Treasurer



**Dr. Chenequa T. Hayden**  
Assistant Treasurer



**Dr. Tamara Cornick**  
Ex-officio Director



**Ms. Ashley Yelity**  
At-Large Director



**Ms. Demetrius Fowlkes**  
Ex-officio Director



**Mrs. Lisa Bishop**  
Ex-officio Director