

Candace C. Moore

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Innovative Leader Scholarship

Jakes Divinity School

I am committed to pursuing a degree at Jakes Divinity School as a conscious step towards the fulfillment of God's discerned purpose for my life. The academic rigor, specialized curriculum, and esteemed accreditation of Paul Quinn College are anticipated to be instrumental in propelling my professional growth within the realms of Leadership and Entrepreneurship. Upon attainment of a Master of Business Administration degree from Jakes Divinity School and Paul Quinn College, I aim to leverage the acquired knowledge and experiences to conscientiously establish a faith-based STEAM preschool. This educational pursuit is not only a testament to my personal resilience but also a commitment to be the inaugural member in my family to attain a master's degree, and utilizing this educational attainment as a stepping stone to advance within my chosen career path.

Upon the culmination of this academic pursuit, I will be suitably equipped to engage in a comprehensive exploration of the strategic planning, initiation, and implementation phases underlying the establishment of my independent preschool. My preschool aims to solve the lack of accessible and affordable high-quality preschool care and education for underserved children in marginalized communities. The first five years of a child's life create an impetus for success, and every child deserves high-quality preschool care and education regardless of their parents socioeconomic status. My objective is to harness the intellectual acumen, network affiliations,

and experiential insights garnered through the completion of this academic program, with the aim of cultivating strategic global alliances and facilitating the expansion of my preschool enterprise to diverse locations within the United States and internationally.

Embarking on the MBA journey at Jakes Divinity School holds profound significance for me as it seamlessly aligns with my faith. As a modern woman of faith, I recognize the intrinsic value of integrating spiritual guidance into my educational journey. It is not merely a preference but a fundamental necessity for me to weave my faith intricately into the fabric of my skills and decisions as an aspiring business leader and entrepreneur. The inspirational example set by Bishop T.D. Jakes, who effortlessly incorporates faith into each of his ventures, serves as a guiding beacon. Witnessing his ability to thrive in the marketplace as a faith-based leader not only motivates but solidifies my conviction in choosing this educational path. By immersing myself in the faith-based instruction at Jakes Divinity School, I am not only pursuing academic excellence but also nurturing the spiritual foundation that will undoubtedly shape my identity as an innovative and principled leader in the business world.

In the dynamic landscape of today's marketplace, where technological advancements are reshaping industries, customer needs are evolving, and a notable 17% of Black women are forging paths as entrepreneurs (J.P. Morgan and Co., 2021), I am confident that my presence in the inaugural cohort of the Executive MBA program is not a mere coincidence but a purposeful alignment. I firmly believe that I am called to navigate and lead in this era of unprecedented change. Recognizing God's divine orchestration behind this opportunity, I am convinced that pursuing this degree is part of a larger plan for my impact in the marketplace. With a profound sense of purpose, I am ready to leverage the knowledge gained from the Executive MBA to

contribute meaningfully to the evolving business landscape and to be a catalyst for positive change in the entrepreneurial endeavors of Black women.

The primary significance of the Innovative Leader Scholarship lies in its ability to provide much-needed financial relief, covering the costs of my graduate student tuition not met by federal student loans. With the financial burden alleviated, I can channel my energy and focus into my studies without the constant worry about the affordability of the program. This newfound financial stability will create an optimal environment for academic success. Beyond the financial support, the scholarship underscores the importance of leadership in driving innovation. By being recognized as an Innovative Leader Scholar, I am not only granted the means to pursue my studies but also invited to participate in leadership development programs and networking opportunities. This holistic approach ensures that I not only excel academically but also emerge as a dynamic leader in my chosen field.