

Denton High School Student Adinawa Adjagbodjou Awarded prestigious Ron Brown Scholarship

The Ron Brown Scholar Program has named Denton High School senior Adinawa Adjagbodjou as a recipient of its title scholarship, awarding her with up to \$40,000 to help throughout her collegiate career.

Each year, the Ron Brown Scholar Program provides young African-American students with the funds necessary to attend the colleges or universities they choose. Scholars are each awarded up to \$10,000 annually for educational expenses over four years as well as mentorship and other guidance provided by the program. In addition to lofty academic standards, recipients are selected based on their financial need.

Three Ivy League schools – Columbia, Cornell and Princeton – have accepted Adinawa’s application, along with several top-tier universities across the nation, such as Notre Dame, the University of Southern California, Stanford, Swarthmore and the University of Virginia. Adinawa has led an accolades-filled career in her time in Denton ISD, becoming an AP Scholar each year she was eligible, representing the district at the Bluebonnet Girls State program and participating in the UIL state academic meet. Additionally, Adinawa serves as the president of her school’s National Honor Society and Creative Writing Club.

Though she hasn’t yet completed the difficult task of deciding where she will attend college from her long list of accepted applications, Adinawa said the Ron Brown Scholar Program has “taken so much burden” from what will already be a tough choice.

“It’s just so great to know that after working so hard for so many years that I’ll be part of something so meaningful and impactful,” she said. “It’s amazing to know that I’ll have this community of supportive and brilliant individuals who all care so much about giving back and just truly want to help me succeed.”

Adinawa is scheduled to graduate in June with a full International Baccalaureate diploma, the highest honor of the rigorous academic program.

Ron Brown Scholars have a history of success, with the program’s student base amassing a 99 percent graduation rate from top-tier colleges and universities in a variety of challenging fields. Since the program began in 1996, only 368 students have been awarded the scholarship. This year, only 28 students from across the nation were selected as Ron Brown Scholars.

Beth Hughes, the International Baccalaureate coordinator at Denton High, said Adinawa’s selection to such an elite group of students is a fitting honor.

“In the past 23 years I have been at Denton High, Adinawa ranks in the top 1 percent of driven students I have mentored,” she said. “She currently shares the No. 1 ranking in her class, and this ranking, her college admissions and scholarship success are the direct result of her ambition and dedication to details as well as her serious, intrinsically motivated approach to learning. Our entire IB faculty shares in her excitement because we all know how deserving she is of every accolade she has earned.”

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