

Bio Information for Sickle Cell Panelists:

Dr. Veneschia Bryant (Educator, Advocate, Parent)

Dr. Veneschia Bryant is a native of Atlanta, Georgia and graduate of Atlanta Public Schools (APS), and therefore is committed to serving the APS community. Her pillars of support are her faith, family, and friends and with these systems securely in place, she chooses moments in life that are full of potential, swollen with promise, and endless of possibilities. Currently serving as a Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, she believes in the words of Dr. James Comer - "No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship." Therefore, it is everyone's responsibility to connect with one another, and especially with our children. As a whole, in order to teach them, we must first care for them, encourage them, and understand their stories to guide them on their journey of becoming the greatest versions of themselves possible. No matter the space you are in when you encounter a child or young adult, the intentional connections you create could be life changing encounters that serve as their primary systems of support. We should all be careful to not miss an opportunity to be present and purposeful.



Jaila Bryant (Graduate Student, Sickle Cell Warrior, Advocate)

Jaila graduated from Stockbridge High School in the top 10% of her class in 2016, and then went on to earn a Bachelor of Business in Finance from Georgia State University. Upon graduating in May 2020 from GSU, at the peak of a global pandemic, Jaila really began to reflect on her current situation and opportunities to support people like her. Her finance career was short lived as she made a major life decision to become a nurse and spent the next year taking pre-requisite courses to be accepted into the nursing school of her dreams. As a result, she will attend Emory's School of Nursing this fall with a goal to help others like her, and to advocate for and support from within. She loves to eat! Food is an experience for her and therefore she loves the art of cooking and eating. She believes that self-care can take any form so as a way to relax and create balance, she can be found binge watching Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Sponge Book in her down time. She is also a fur mom and affectionately refers to Leo, her two year old Yorkie, as her son. Her life quote is, "God gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers." She embodies this message and she stands ready for battle to change the stereotypes, change mindsets, and ultimately change systems.



Samantha Huff (College Student, Sickle Cell Warrior, Advocate)

Samantha Huff is a native of Clayton County in Georgia and graduated from high school in Clayton County School System in 2019. While in high school, her dual enrollment status, mixed with her drive and determination, allowed her to accelerate her college experience because now, just three years later, Samantha is a senior at Kennesaw State University and slated to graduate soon. With a major in Sociology and a minor in African Diaspora Studies she plans to attend graduate school in the future and further her knowledge to become a licensed therapist. In struggling with her own illness, Samantha has always taken pride in aiding others with issues that plague the African American community. Her efforts within her community have led Samantha to becoming involved in a variety of college organizations such as College Girls Rock, Minorities in Medicine, and T.R.U.S.T. KSU. With her persevering spirit and desire to advocate and support others, she hopes to one day provide counseling for children and young adults experiencing emotional setbacks.

