



RUST COLLEGE

HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RUST COLLEGE SENIORS SELECTED AS DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS BY THE WHITE HOUSE HBCU INITIATIVE

HOLLY SPRINGS, MS - Rust College proudly announces that two of its outstanding students, Annan Qunto Odongo and Amelya Hatch, have been selected as distinguished scholars for the 2023 HBCU Scholar Recognition Program by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Annan Qunto Odongo, a senior on the path to earning a degree in Computer Science, comes to Rust College from Kenya, East Africa. As a non-traditional student, Odongo brings a unique perspective and dedication to his studies. His presence and commitment enrich the campus community.

Amelya Hatch, a gifted biology major and a formidable student athlete, hails from Ripley, Mississippi. In addition to her academic pursuits, Hatch also serves as the point guard for Rust College's basketball team. Her remarkable academic prowess, combined with her exceptional skills

on the basketball court, exemplifies the spirit of excellence that Rust College cultivates in its students.

These remarkable scholars were honored at the HBCU Week Conference, September 24-28, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport in Washington, DC. This recognition program is a part of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The HBCU Scholar Recognition Program seeks to celebrate and elevate students who embody the core values of scholarship, leadership, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement. It is a testament to the commitment of HBCUs and their students to advancing equity and fostering excellence.

Over the course of an academic school year, HBCU Scholars will serve as ambassadors of the White House Initiative on HBCUs. They will be offered training and cross-university networking opportunities. Scholars will also have an opportunity to work on issues specifically related to the HBCU community and participate in national and regional events with professionals from a wide range of disciplines.

Rust College takes immense pride in the achievements of Annan Quento Odongo and Amelya Hatch. Their recognition on a national platform is not only a testament to their individual excellence but also a reflection of Rust College's commitment to nurturing talent and promoting academic excellence.

As these exceptional scholars are honored at the HBCU Week Conference, Rust College congratulates them and eagerly anticipates the future accomplishments that they will undoubtedly achieve. Their journey inspires all students at Rust College to strive for greatness and make a meaningful impact on the world.

About Rust College

Rust College is the oldest most prestigious historically black college in Mississippi founded in 1866 by the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Offering degree programs in business, education, humanities, science and mathematics, and social science. Rust College equips and inspires students for excellence and service in their communities and throughout the world. Located in Holly Springs, MS, just 35 miles southeast of Memphis, Tennessee, Rust College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate and baccalaureate degrees.

For more information about Rust College, call (662) 252-8000, ext. 4915, cell (662) 544-0950 or visit www.rustcollege.edu.

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