

Dunbar student wins Gates scholarship

Martika Clark, a senior at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, has won a Gates Millennium Scholarship.

She plans to study occupational safety and health at Murray State, then pursue a master's in business management at Hampton University in Virginia.

"My parents really pushed me. My dad has always told me to value my education," Clark said. "They know I'm a hard worker, but this really ices the cake."

The Gates Millennium Scholars program (www.gmsp.org/) aims to reduce financial barriers for minority students and provide seamless support from undergraduate through doctoral programs for students entering the target disciplines of education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and the sciences.

"This definitely opens up so many opportunities for her," said Deanna Smith, Clark's guidance counselor at Dunbar.