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## **Book gives scholarship recipients wisdom for college life**

- By SARAH FALLIN [sfallin@somdnews.com](mailto:sfallin@somdnews.com)
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It's been a tradition at scholarship receptions for LEAP Forward for the past years' recipients to pass on some wisdom to the new crop of awardees.

Now, LEAP Forward, a local nonprofit aimed at promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) to minority youth and assisting with their educational endeavors, along with Concerned Black Women, published a book of wisdom from about 30 past scholarship recipients. The book will be given to future recipients and are available for purchase.

"From Whence We Came College Survival Toolkit" came to LEAP Forward president Rhonda Thomas during the scholarship reception in 2016 as the past recipients passed on their wisdom.

"While I was sitting there, the spirit just spoke to me ... you should make this book," Thomas said.

Later that same year, they reached out to the past recipients and received about 30 responses. The 25 scholarship recipients in July of this year were the first crop to receive the book.

The book gives the new college students positive role models who came from Southern Maryland as well, Thomas said. More than 300 books have been distributed in total, particularly to organizations who work with youth.

"I've heard it's really been a positive influence," Thomas said.

For more information on LEAP Forward, go to [www.leapforwardinc.org](http://www.leapforwardinc.org).