



Arizona • Florida • Georgia • Nevada

## Student Spotlight 2024

### Tiffany Bello-Spence

Miami, FL



Tiffany Bello-Spence is a determined young woman with a big dream of becoming a veterinarian one day, a goal that is now in reach thanks to the preparation she is receiving at Saint Brendan High School in Miami, Fla., a school she is attending on an AAA Scholarship.

Born prematurely and losing her father to cancer before she reached her first birthday, the odds were stacked against Tiffany. However, her mother, Janice Bello, was determined to provide the best life she could for her and has worked tirelessly over the years to fulfill that goal. As Tiffany approached high school, it became clear that she needed a more challenging environment than the school she was zoned for.

"By middle school she already had her mind set: she wanted to attend the University of Florida and become a veterinarian," recalls Janice. "However, I worried that her determination would be stifled if she continued in an environment that did not provide her with opportunities for growth and tools to help her reach her goals."

In their search for options, they found Saint Brendan High School. It had everything they hoped for - including a strong academic program with separate academies such as medical sciences, perfectly aligned to Tiffany's future goal. Unable to afford the tuition on her own, Janice applied for and received a tax credit scholarship from AAA for Tiffany, easing the financial burden and giving her daughter the chance to pursue her dreams.

Now in the 12th grade, Tiffany has excelled during her time at Saint Brendan, where she was one of only 30 students accepted into the medical sciences program her freshman year. She is taking all AP classes while continuing to earn top grades and was inducted into the National Honor Society. She is also involved in various other honor societies including science, English and social science, even serving as president of her school's Science National Honor Society and secretary of her school's National English Honor Society. On any given day, you can find her studying or fulfilling her duties for the numerous other activities and clubs she is involved in, such as Environmental Club, Red Cross, Key Club, and Sabres Against Cancer (in honor of her father).

She still has her sights set on attending the University of Florida, but has also applied to other colleges, including University of Miami (UM), University of Central Florida (UCF), Cornell and Florida International University (FIU). She has already been accepted by early admission into UCF and was given the opportunity by Saint Brendan – who only nominates one student per year – to get a scholarship that covers most of the tuition for UM. We know that she will excel wherever she lands.

"As a single parent on a limited income, I have made many sacrifices to provide a good life for my daughter," says Janice. "Thanks to AAA, I did not have to sacrifice her quality of education."

**About AAA Scholarship Foundation**

*AAA Scholarship Foundation promotes the advancement of education by administering educational choice programs. The typical AAA Scholarship student is an ethnic minority living with a struggling single parent/caregiver in a high crime community. More than 80 percent of these children are initially awarded AAA scholarships while living in households with annual incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Many are either below grade level, failing at their previous school or both when they first receive a scholarship. Parents, who find their children in these circumstances and are concerned about their future, look for viable options. They seek an atmosphere that challenges their children and will reverse inadequate learning, social patterns and potential lifelong negative impacts. They wish to change their children's learning environment, acquaintances and the unfortunate predictable outcomes associated with school failure.*

*AAA Scholarships are funded in Arizona, Florida, Georgia and Nevada by companies that redirect a portion of their state tax liability to the AAA Scholarship Foundation in exchange for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. AAA Scholarship Foundation is one of the only 501(c)(3) nonprofit scholarship organizations approved to administer these legislatively-authorized tax credit scholarship programs in multiple states. AAA Scholarship Foundation provides your company with the convenience and efficiency of a single solution for participating in multiple state tax credit scholarship programs. For more information, or to learn how your company can participate in the program, visit [www.AAAScholarships.org](http://www.AAAScholarships.org), or contact Kerri Vaughan at [kerri@aaascholarships.org](mailto:kerri@aaascholarships.org) or 888-707-2465 ext. 730.*