



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DR. JACKSON APPLAUDS AG FOR EXTENDING INVESTIGATION OF STOLEN MERIT TO ALL FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Herndon, VA** – Today, Dr. Harry Jackson, the first African American named president of the Thomas Jefferson HS for Science & Technology Parent Teacher Student Association (TJ PTSA), prolific education advocate, recognized expert in industry-standard cyber security certifications, and professor at numerous colleges and universities, applauds the Virginia AG for extending school merit recognition investigation to all Fairfax County Public Schools.

### **Dr. Jackson shared the following statement:**

“It can take a lot of courage for youth and parents to stand up for their record of academic achievement when injustice occurs. Because more families have spoken up about the likelihood that similar instances of stolen merit have occurred in additional schools in Fairfax County, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares has extended the investigation to include all schools in the district. I applaud AG Miyares for taking these allegations seriously.

Simultaneously, outspoken parents and youth are being called out as ‘political activists’ for sounding the alarm and engaging in public outcry over this scandal. In response to that, I would like to remind anyone who is tempted to downplay the stolen merit of a youth’s academic achievement of this fact: high school merit recognition informs parents and students they are eligible to compete in a field of around 800 possible college scholarships. With the cost of college increasing exponentially, such opportunities make the difference when the choice must be made about how to fund college and whether it is even going to be considered a financial possibility.

As your next Hunter Mill District Representative, I will always stand in the gap to defend youth, parents, and educational activists who fight for the doors of opportunity to open for academic excellence.”

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### **About Dr. Jackson**

Born in Harrisburg, PA, Dr. Harry Jackson grew up in Lancaster and Lititz, PA, the son of a judge and social worker, where their love of education, spirit of resilience, and commitment to justice inspired his life. At Lancaster Catholic High School, he was the first Black student from Lancaster County to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. There, he played football and was on the powerlifting team, graduating with a degree in general engineering in 1999. As a U.S. collegiate weightlifting national champion in 1998 in the 90-kilogram weight class and an All-American Powerlifter in 1997, 1998 and 1999, he learned to be aggressive, recognizing that he would make mistakes from which he would draw lessons and course correct.

Dr. Jackson has a Doctorate in Strategic Security from Henley-Putnam University, a Master of Science in Government Information Systems, a Chief Information Officer and Chief Information Security Officer graduate certificates from National Defense University, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, a Master of Arts in Strategic Intelligence Studies from American Military University, and a Bachelor of Science in General Engineering from the United States Naval Academy.

Dr. Jackson is the first African American to be named president of the TJ PTSA and has extensive experience in education, program management, acquisition and cybersecurity. He is a professor at numerous colleges and universities, a recognized expert in industry-standard cyber security certifications and an ardent education activist focused on diversity and excellence.

Dr. Jackson specializes in diversity in gifted education, and he works with several advocacy groups. He was the Vice President of the Fairfax County Association for the Gifted, where he also chairs the organization’s diversity committee and works on policy to address the K-8 educational pipeline impacting underrepresented communities.

Dr. Jackson has held leadership positions in several other educational advocacy organizations, including Parents Defending Education, Coalition For TJ and the Black Student Fund. Dr. Jackson is uniquely qualified to address racial achievement gaps with solutions that do not require additional income taxes, while promoting educational access opportunities and leveraging public-private partnerships.

He has published columns in the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post and the Fairfax Times. He has appeared on CNN, Fox News and numerous media outlets and hosts a regular online TV show, “Education Matters”, on the new USANOW.TV web channel.

For more information, visit [FriendsOfHarryJackson.com](http://FriendsOfHarryJackson.com).

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