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Secretary, Gloria Jane Harvey Foundation Corporation

JUNIOR ARMY ROTC STUDENT EXPERIENCE

at the Prairie View A&M University Cadet Leadership Course

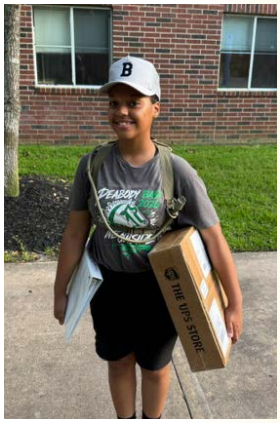
JUNE 9-13, 2026

PVAMU

For **Shanelle Daniels**, a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church and a Junior Army ROTC cadet at Peabody Magnet High School in Alexandria, Louisiana, attending the **Prairie View A&M University Cadet Leadership Course (CLC)** from **June 9–13, 2026**, was one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of her life. While Shanelle expected to develop leadership skills and participate in military-style training, she did not anticipate how much the course would push her beyond her comfort zone and help her grow both personally and professionally.

From the first day, the pace was fast and demanding. Each day began early, and every activity had a specific purpose. Whether participating in physical training, attending leadership classes, or working through team-building exercises, the focus remained on developing leadership abilities and learning to work effectively with others.

One of the most valuable lessons Shanelle learned was that leadership is not simply about being in charge. Throughout the course, she was given opportunities to lead her peers in a variety of situations. Sometimes this required making quick decisions under pressure, while at other times it meant listening carefully to team members and ensuring that everyone had an opportunity to contribute. These experiences taught her that



effective leaders earn trust by setting the example, serving others, and supporting those around them.

The physical training was both challenging and motivating. Every morning required discipline, determination, and perseverance. Although the workouts were demanding, Shanelle discovered she was capable of accomplishing more than she had imagined. Watching her fellow cadets overcome the same challenges strengthened her appreciation for teamwork, resilience, and camaraderie.

One of the highlights of the Cadet Leadership Course was meeting students from different schools and diverse backgrounds. Although many of the cadets arrived as strangers, they quickly learned to rely on one another. Working together during leadership exercises and team challenges created friendships that Shanelle believes will last long after the course has ended.

The instructors and cadre also left a lasting impression. They challenged every cadet to perform at their highest level while providing valuable guidance, encouragement, and mentorship throughout the week. Their leadership and professionalism helped Shanelle gain a deeper understanding of the character, discipline, and commitment required to succeed not only in Junior Army ROTC but also in life.

As the week progressed, Shanelle became increasingly confident in her abilities. She strengthened her communication skills, learned to solve problems collaboratively, accepted greater responsibility for her actions, and developed a clearer understanding of what it truly means to lead others.

Attending the Prairie View A&M University Cadet Leadership Course was an unforgettable experience that challenged Shanelle physically, mentally, and emotionally while equipping her with leadership skills that will benefit her throughout high school, Junior Army ROTC, college, and her future career. She is grateful for the opportunity to participate in such a prestigious program and knows the lessons she learned will remain with her for years to come.

Overall, the Cadet Leadership Course enabled Shanelle to become a more confident leader and teammate. The lessons she learned—from effective communication and teamwork to discipline, resilience, and servant leadership—will continue to guide her as she strives for excellence in the Junior Army ROTC program, her academic pursuits, and her future professional goals.

> **“ Shanelle extends her sincere appreciation to the Gloria Jane Harvey Foundation for sponsoring her participation in this outstanding leadership program. Without the Foundation’s generous support, this life-changing opportunity may not have been possible.**

The Foundation’s investment in young leaders provides meaningful experiences that prepare students to become responsible citizens and make positive contributions to their communities.

Shanelle was honored to represent the Gloria Jane Harvey Foundation during the Cadet Leadership Course and is deeply grateful for the Foundation’s belief in her potential. This experience has strengthened her determination to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a **Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer in the United States Army**. She will always be thankful for the Foundation’s generosity, encouragement, and commitment to developing the next generation of leaders.