

# National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce HFE Scholars



**Cayleigh Bland**

**Frisco Tx**

**Jackson State University**

This generosity will not only provide me the resources to complete my education but also allow me to continue working towards building and encouraging my community. Thank you so much for this incredible gift that will allow me to see out the dreams I have had since a child of completing education in engineering.



**Jed Tan**

**Cary NC**

**NC State University**

I am incredibly grateful to be receiving this scholarship as this opportunity will enable me to not only pursue my studies in business administration, but have the financial stability to explore creative endeavors related to my field of study.



**Aran Glynn**

**Bronx NY**

**Babson College**

Thank you so much for your decision in choosing me as one of the scholarship recipients! I know that with your help I can create even bigger goals, not just for myself but for the other minority + LGBTQ+ students who grew up like me and needed the extra help and support.



**Kianna Armstrong**

**Solon OH**

**University of Southern California**

Denny's was always the place for our family to rest, gather and be together. As a military family who moved every 3 years, comfort and consistency became valuable. Denny's was always a consistent and comfortable space to rest, and have lunch and a milkshake between long car trips.

# Partners for Youth with Disabilities HFE Scholars



**Betsy Ruiz Santiago**  
**Kealekekua HA**  
**University of Hawaii at Hilo**

One of the things could be having a United Day. It would be held over the day and include one free item off the menu for the kids with disabilities. Denny's could have families with disabled family members come in and have a conversation with different families to acknowledge that they are not alone with their disability.



**John Tom Geraci**  
**Newton MA**  
**Merrimack College**

While many other large businesses have at least some charitable involvement, Denny's goes the extra mile by explicitly weaving its commitment to the communities it serves right into its mission statement and prominently featuring it on its website and within its restaurants.



**Hadley Kronick**  
**Baton Rouge LA**  
**Wellesley College**

Denny's is an organization that services people all throughout the U.S. Since they are known on a wide scale, they are capable of making a change bringing communities together. They can do this by holding events where different types of ethnicities and people from communities nearby can participate, especially the youth.



# USC of the Upstate Foundation HFE Scholars



**Ashlynn Fortenberry**  
**Inman SC**  
**USC Upstate**

Another way to bring communities together is supporting the youth of the community. Offering and or sponsoring programs that can benefit youth like donating money or food to schools or showing up to school events like career fairs to promote Denny's and to give out coupons to make them intrigued to come in the first place.



**Grace Black**  
**Florence SC**  
**USC Upstate**

Denny's can bring communities together by hosting family weekends at the restaurant. This will allow people in the community to come out, enjoy a meal with their families, and meet new people. During these family weekends, there should be good music and games to be played in the restaurants as the customers wait on their food to be served.



**Jervaris Rice**  
**Spartanburg SC**  
**USC Upstate**

Denny's can also start building trust by connecting with community, health, education, youth, and religious leaders, social and environmental groups, and local role models. Obtaining the approval of both official and informal leaders may facilitate talks with much bigger groups within the community. This inclusion and participation of the greater community is critical.

# Alpha Kappa Alpha – Lambda Rho Omega Chapter HFE Scholars



**Nyree McCollum**

**River Forest IL**

**Western Illinois University**

Denny's can help bring communities together by continuing to be involved in all the communities. Reaching out to all communities by being involved on a more personal level. Like having designated volunteers in different communities and would be considered a spokesperson for that area.



**Jaelyn Williams**

**Houston Texas**

**Texas Southern University**

Denny's can bring the communities together by hosting a mental health night at their locations. At the mental health night, employees and the community will benefit greatly from this event. Denny's could invite local therapists, psychologists, and mental health professionals to come out.



# Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities HFE Scholars



**Miguel Jimenez**  
Chicago IL  
University of Chicago

If Denny partners or sponsors LGBTQ, Black Lives Matter, Hispanic/Latino, Asian organizations this can bring awareness to communities. When we build awareness, we are also creating a community. To raise awareness in efforts to bring the community together it simply starts by sponsoring a run.



**Karen Gonzalez**  
El Centro CA  
University of AZ

Denny's can bring communities together by doing what it does best and that's getting families together and providing great inexpensive meals. Denny's can bring communities not only together but closer to one another.



**Daniel Candia**  
El Monte CA  
Pasadena City College

With Denny's, I believe there are countless possibilities to be offered to bring back the sense of community that was stripped away during the lockdown. One simple solution would be to donate excess food that would otherwise be thrown out at the end of the night..



**John San Nicolas**  
Albuquerque NM  
The University of NM

It did take me some time to understand the power of the community I now serve. A society that can share honest feedback and allows you to shine. Being able to contribute makes a difference, helps us see what we cannot see, and share different life perspectives while working together.

# Tom Joyner Foundation HFE Scholars



**Autumn Hasty**

**Atlanta GA**

**North Carolina Central**

Giving back to hospitals as well could be a good way to build community. When Denny's gives back to hospitals this can be put into getting better equipment, better waiting rooms and etc. Some hospitals lack new technology as well so this would be a huge help. Hospital food usually isn't the best but Denny's food could help that and make the patients feel good when it is time to eat their meals.

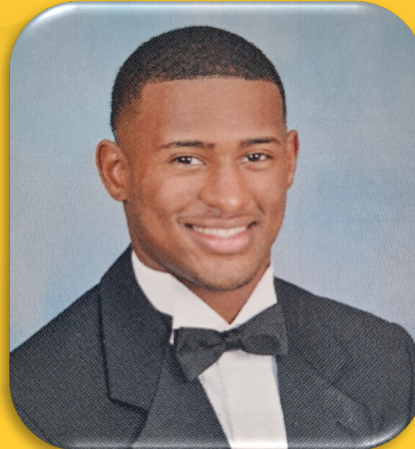


**Jamie Carter**

**Miami Gardens FL**

**Tennessee State University**

I believe Denny's could bring the community together through education. Education is a critical component in the establishment of a community. When people are unable to communicate, it can be challenging to develop solid trust and rapport. Education assists in removing barriers and fostering comprehension among different cultures, races, religions, and so on. It can also help people find jobs or make more money because they have the skills that employers require.



**Shawn St. Romain**

**Angleton TX**

**Prairie View**

I believe that Denny's could host a voter registration drive, but to bring people out to the voter registration drive they could have the Houston food bank come and give away food. Free food always brings a crowd, which would be a good way of helping those that need the food. Another idea would be to host different organizations within the community at their local stores. Those different organizations could be LULAC, the local NAACP, and LGBTQ, to name a few.



**Jayla Thornton**

**Ft. Washington MD**

**North Carolina A&T**

To unify a community that faces challenges like these, Denny's would carry out their initiative by hosting a large community-based event that would be central to all residents living within the community- preferably somewhere that would be of walking distance for those who do not have a means of transportation, or even potentially within a housing community, in efforts to meet a majority of residents exactly where they are.



**Madison McMullen**

**Oakland FL**

**Florida A&M**

In my opinion, in order for Denny's to be successful in bringing the different communities together, multiple platforms and activities should be used to reach all ages, ethnicities, and multiple demographic areas. Specific platforms and targeted activities can lead to collaboration, visibility, and awareness which will bring the different communities together.



# Greater Divine Nine Of Spartanburg HFE Scholars



**Aryah Certain**

**Las Vegas NV**

**University of Nevada Las Vegas**

In summary, Denny's can help bring communities together by hosting social events, offering partnerships with local organizations, and promoting corporate internships to college students. Implementing these ways would help communities prosper and help the future generation. As I previously stated, Denny's does a great job supporting communities with their scholarships too.



**Eunice Eleke**

**Spartanburg SC**

**South Carolina State University**

Using a philanthropic board in the community could help Denny's enhance its current charitable efforts by providing additional resources and expertise. The board would be able to identify more opportunities for Denny's to give back, as well as provide guidance on how best to allocate their funds and time. Additionally, having a local presence on the board would allow Denny's to better understand the needs of their community and tailor their giving accordingly.



**Cydni Tyler**

**Austel GA**

**Georgia Southern University**

Denny's is a company that sees a problem and makes a solution from the early days of Denny's being founded being open 24/7. Which virtually did help people who would still need access to a meal from working late at night. Now recently seeing the crisis that American citizens continue to face with hunger and education. Through this program, Denny's will continue bridging together communities from all walks of life.



**Amariah Drummond**

**Moore SC**

**North Carolina A&T State University**

Denny's has catered to families, remained open for late-night teen visits, and consistently put their patrons at ease. Denny's never fails to bring their community together over warm food and great laughs. You won't get better service anywhere else than at your neighborhood Denny's.

Every item at Denny's is reasonably priced, well prepared, and delectable for everyone. Additionally, Denny's serves a wide range of breakfast, lunch, and dinner options.

# Greater Divine Nine Of Spartanburg HFE Scholars



**Cameran Gist**  
**Spartanburg SC**  
**SC State University**

By teaching families to grow healthy foods and allowing them to have access to healthy foods without the high cost, we will be able to see a decline in hunger. This program could establish communities that are self-sufficient. The community would be able to thrive by having healthy choices of food right in their neighborhood.



**Angela Zhong**  
**Austin TX**  
**Harvard University**

Another way to bring the communities together would be to host a bike ride or some type of activity to bring out families of all races in a less intimate activity. The race could be every year or every other year and it would promote unity and inclusion. This could create a tradition for the community and everyone would look forward to participating every year.



**Melanie Chavez**  
**Avondale AZ**  
**Grand Canyon University**

One of my favorite ways is when my friends and I get together and hang out we are usually looking for an activity to do that keeps all of us out of trouble. Eating is the very best way to do that. We will go and grab a great meal and just hang out as friends. We are always kind to the staff and stack plates; we try to clean up after ourselves unlike so many kids and college students that we see out in the world today.



**Cecilia Laurie**  
**Chicago IL**  
**North Park University**

Denny's can bring communities together by putting Denny's location in low-income areas in order to help individuals get a good job with Denny's and be able to make a source of income. Additionally, Denny's locations being more widespread would bring a necessity to any community a place to gather by creating a family-friendly environment that provides food to communities that may have fewer resources.



# Jim Clyburn Foundation HFE Scholars



## **Brooks Van Esselstyn**

**Okatie SC  
MIT or FIT**

With Denny's help kids like me from low income homes get the glorious opportunity to attend college and live the life they've desired in their dreams and with the Urban league and Denny's working together they can reach multiple communities and improve upon them and initiate a new era of empowerment, opportunity, equality, and peace.

## **Kendra Hollington**

**Charleston SC  
University of South Carolina  
or Winthrop University**

If Denny's focused on low-income neighborhoods and found a neutral area to host the gathering, they could also bring members from the community to form a committee that helps plan the fine details. This gathering could be held sometime in the afternoon, and weekly.

## **Emma Paris**

**Gaffney SC  
Clemson University**

Denny's can help bring communities together by reaching out to young people like myself and getting our thoughts and ideas on a regular basis. Answering this essay question is a perfect example of one way that could be accomplished. We as young people have many ideas, but we just need a platform to talk openly about them.

## **Andres Biera**

**Simpsonville SC  
USC Upstate**

Denny's can help bring communities together by being a middle ground for people from different perspectives to talk. In today's age, many people are on extreme ends of their opinions, and there is little to no effort to look towards the other side or meet in the middle. A place like Denny's could provide a safe space for dialogue from opposing sides that may become a team.

## **Terryn Myers**

**Columbia SC  
Auburn University**

Denny's is committed to giving back to local communities with their programs. Their team members love to volunteer with these events that Denny's hosts because they love to help out ones who need food, making their day better and making others smile.

# Partners for Youth with Disabilities HFE Scholar



**Naumann Stephen**  
**Winthrop MA**  
**F.I.R.S.T Institute**

Denny's can bring community's together by continuing to provide donations to charitable organizations and partner with charities to feed the needy. In addition, Denny's could showcase different cultures by showcasing limited time menu selections for each culture.



**Morgan Wilcox**  
**Cypress TX**  
**Cy-Fair High School**

Denny's can help people by making sure that all people can meet each other. The restaurants can work to be a good place for people to meet and learn about each other. People can eat and bring their families.



**Brandon Le**  
**West Newton MA**  
**Milestones Day School**

I think Denny's can bring communities together by creating a network of volunteer opportunities for students to earn service hours or for anyone who simply wants to give their time. Volunteer partners could be food pantries, literacy centers, assisted living facilities, and pet rescue shelters.



# Alpha Kappa Alpha – Epsilon Beta Omega HFE Scholars



**Janiya Harper**

**Duncan SC**

**North Carolina A & T State University**

I believe Denny's can bring communities together by allowing safe spaces for minorities and allies from the community. As of 2020, almost 40% of individuals living in the United States resonated with the definition of minority, meaning that minority groups make up almost 50% of the US population—this is only race alone, not including weight, gender, or people with disabilities.



**Samiah Lewis**

**Spartanburg SC**

**Spelman College**

Denny's understands this ongoing phenomenon and its detrimental effects on communities across the nation. To actively combat childhood hunger, Denny's partners with organizations such as No Kid Hungry to offer children the chance to gain enough nutrition throughout their day to have the energy to create, learn, and grow.



**Ma'Kayla Williams**

**Moore SC**

**Converse or Lander University**

Denny's brings a lot of communities together. They have had volunteered multiple hours to the communities. They have had multiple food drives and raiser to help schools in need. Denny's have always been a family friendly restaurant that you can meet with your friends and family.



# 100 Black Men of the Upstate S.C. HFE Scholars



Jemel Lopez  
Simpsonville SC  
Clemson University

Dennys can hold events like a 5k walk or a Heritage celebration event that bring people together from all walks of life. I spent time at a Dennys recently with my uncle and it was one of the best experiences of my life, Denny was the catalyst for me and my uncle to have a fun and lively conversation ...



Landyn James  
Greenville SC  
Clemson University

Denny's ongoing community involvement is exceptional. Giving back to the community in the magnitude Denny's has over the last decade are high shoes to fill. It is incredible how Denny's strides on no kid hungry. This is a fantastic program. I have witnessed myself and many classmates skipping lunch or asking to borrow a dollar they will not be able to return to have one meal a day.



George Whitney  
Greer SC  
College of Charleston

Denny's has always been a place of comfort that offers dining for all regardless of time of day. Denny's systematically brings communities together. In 1963, Denny's allowed people to franchise, which meant others could financially benefit in the American Dream of owning a business.



Isaiah Henry  
Spartanburg SC  
Clemson University

Denny's can also begin working with local farmers and farm markets to spread the word that local fruits and vegetables are available here for a low cost. Additionally, Denny's would be putting this to action by purchasing the goods that they promote for these local farmers and markets.



Cameron Grant  
Duncan SC  
University of South Carolina

I believe that major corporations like Denny's have an opportunity to stand with public school systems to create safe spaces for healthy conversations that dispel misinformation. I imagine that school districts would love to partner with Denny's to create these safe spaces in the form of frequent listening sessions occupied by opposing voices.



# Greater Divine Nine Of Spartanburg HFE Scholars



**Jaliyah Reynolds**  
Woodruff SC  
Clemson University

Denny's should organize community-building events so that people would know that there is a restaurant in the area that is for the community. Hosting events can be a great way to meet new people in the community and demonstrate that we can all come together for good times, not just bad. Have a family fun day, for example, with inflatables for children as well as vendors for adults. They could also offer unfamiliar artists from the community who haven't been seen or heard.



**Nyla Girdner**  
Inman SC  
Clemson University

Denny's makes sure to invest in their planet and food. They are not just a restaurant, they are a community. They don't just serve food, they serve equity to their community. When I walk into the restaurant I am pleased to be able to say that the entire staff is not just white. I see color, different colors, and many differences within all. Which is amazing because you don't see that very often, so it is good to be able to feel a part of the environment they have created.



**Jamiyah Jones**  
Whitmire SC  
Lander University

Denny's can bring communities together by partnering with residents and creating a food bank. They, along with the community, can donate non-perishable food such as canned goods, beans, rice, pasta, etc. and surplus food. With the help of volunteers from the community, distribution of food will be available at the food bank on a daily basis. The food bank will help alleviate the cost of groceries for those who are on a limited and/or fixed income.



**Taylor Woodruff**  
Boiling Springs  
University of South Carolina

Denny's can give schools the finances help to help them host reading workshops for students and parents, who would like to better their reading abilities. Denny's could encourage schools to set aside time for independent reading, where teachers can work closely with students that are struggling. In doing this, we could create a healthy and open environment that supports student reading capabilities and does not demean them if they are not the best.

# Greater Divine Nine Of Spartanburg HFE Scholars



**Charlie Proctor**  
Duncan SC  
SC State University

Another great way Denny's can bring communities together is by investing in their employees. This will assist all communities by helping to mold and shape community leaders. Acknowledge that the examples Denny's set within its organization is also being set in your employees' households. Create a company culture that focuses on personal development, both inside and outside the workplace to influence our local community.



**Nathan Fernanders**  
Spartanburg SC  
Spartanburg Methodist College

I believe Denny's can impact the community through supporting community programs. Oftentimes many of those who are in need take acts of kindness to heart.

My brothers and I helped organize the donations that were received and mentored kids as volunteers with Cleveland Elementary School, TK Gregg, JC Bull, and Piedmont Community Action.



**J'bari Miller**  
Boiling Springs  
SC State University or NC A&T

Denny's can help fight social injustice by working with the community as a team. As we say in basketball "We may not win every game, but we must all work together as a unit." Denny's can work with local legislation for the well-being of our citizens. Businesses like Denny's have the power to make changes. Denny's has been a key factor in the communities around especially the community of Spartanburg as it is a well known business.



**Jamison Guy**  
Spartanburg SC  
SC State University or Winston Salem State University

Online, many adults are openly expressing their opinions regarding what they feel is best for Spartanburg, but unlike their children, they cannot cross ethnic, religious, and financial boundaries which seem to create boundaries in our community. A Youth Advisory Council will change that. To fulfill this, we will need sponsorship. Denny's could help with that as well as provide a platform for children, the future of Spartanburg, to voice our concerns and improve our community.