

**Media Release                               Contact: Koko Mackin**

**August 6, 2020                                                                             205-220-2713**

**USA Medical Students Selected to Receive Medical School Scholarships from**

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL** – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama has selected three University of South Alabama (USA) medical students to receive scholarships. As a condition of these scholarships, the recipients agree to practice as primary care or behavioral health physicians in underserved areas of Alabama after graduation.

Congratulations to the following recipients:

* Gisella “Gigi” Ward Mobile, Alabama
* Megan Hood Birmingham, Alabama
* Miranda Crowell Northport, Alabama

“Congratulations to each of these exceptional medical students for being selected for this scholarship,” said Tim Vines, President and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. “I commend them for recognizing the importance of this program and wanting to provide quality healthcare to those in many of the underserved areas of our state.”

The majority of Alabama’s counties do not have enough primary care and behavioral health physicians. To address this statewide need, Blue Cross is investing in the future of their Primary Care Physician Network by making available $1.2 million in scholarships, over a five-year period, to the South Alabama College of Medicine.

“This scholarship will allow me to give back to the community,” said Miranda Crowell, USA medical student and scholarship recipient. “I sincerely appreciate Blue Cross. It shows what a great company they are for giving me this wonderful opportunity to serve others.”

***About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama***

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama has insured Alabamians for 84 years. Blue Cross offers coverage plans to corporations, individuals and the senior market. For more information about Blue Cross, visit [AlabamaBlue.com](http://www.AlabamaBlue.com). Connect with us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BCBSAL/?fref=ts), check out our videos on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/BCBSofAlabama) and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/BCBSofAlabama) for more up-to-date information.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.