

# Meet our HBCU Student Ambassadors!

Power to Decide is proud to announce our 2023 HBCU Student Ambassadors for our new initiative to empower young adults through student-led peer education and support at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This initiative also aims to advance a culture of reproductive well-being, an innovative framework centered on the belief that every person should have equitable access to the information, services, systems and support they need to have control over their bodies, and to make their own decisions related to sexuality and reproduction throughout their lives.

## Representing New Orleans, LA:

### Jalah Bates & Mya Bledsoe



Jalah is a third-year student at the prestigious Xavier University of Louisiana. She is pursuing a BS in Public Health Sciences whilst double minoring in Spanish and Biology. With the goal of finishing an accelerated postbaccalaureate program and then heading directly to medical school, Jalah aspires to work as a pediatric cardiothoracic

surgeon. Her goal is to establish an affordable community health center, which will be accessible to working-class households and undocumented immigrants. She is actively involved on and off campus being an extended part of Xavier's Admissions as a vanguard, a peer health educator, vice president of Foreign Language Club, treasurer of African Student Union and Pre-Alumni Council, events coordinator for Public Health Student Organization, and a site leader for mobilization at Xavier 2.0. Jalah also volunteers as a hotline advocate for the non-profit STAR (Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response) and has had the privilege of participating in the American College of Cardiology Young Scholars Program and the Mayo Clinic's Undergraduate Plummer Scholars Program. Jalah's ultimate desire is to give back to the communities that poured into her.

**Jalah Bates**



My name is Mya Bledsoe from Missouri City, Texas. I am a third-year college student at Xavier University of Louisiana, pursuing a bachelor's in public health sciences. My career goals are in epidemiology where I plan to carry out my practice as a maternal and child health epidemiologist. My mission is to improve women and

children health with research to enhance health programs and policies. Outside of school, I'm involved in student leadership organizations and community service. Currently, I serve as the Arts and Culture chair for the Xavier Activities Board. In addition, I am an Election Board Representative for Xavier's Student Government Association. Xavier mission calls on their students to contribute to the advancement of a more humane society via leadership and service. Each week, I partake in volunteerism with the Vicent Vault and Mobilization at Xavier, two community service projects on Xavier's campus. My passions not only gave me clarity on what it means to help others, but they enriched my character by improving resilience, empathy, and determination.

**Mya Bledsoe**