

February 7, 2020



Greetings from the Greater Denton County Chapter, The Links, Incorporated,

It is with great pleasure that we announce our 2019 Growing and Empowering Minds for Success (GEMS) Scholarships for African American scholars, graduating from high school in the spring of 2020.

The Links, Incorporated is, an international, not for profit corporation based in Washington, DC. Established in 1946, with a membership consisting of nearly 16,000 professional women of color in 288 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and the United Kingdom. The Links, Incorporated is committed to equipping students of color with the skills to compete and excel in a global workforce. The Greater Denton County Chapter is comprised of African American women who serve as corporate and non-profit leaders in business, medicine, law and other fields. Initiated in 2018, the GEMS Scholarship reflects our commitment to reaching back and providing the hand of friendship to young ladies in our community. This year, we will offer more than \$9000 in scholarships to African American students planning to attend a four-year college or university.

The 2020 GEMS Scholarship targets African American high school seniors attending a high school or who reside in Denton County. Students must be accepted to a four-year college or university and plan to pursue a degree in an applicable field of study, depending on scholarship application selection. The scholarship requirements and application are attached and **must be postmarked on or before Monday, March 23, 2020**. We are requesting that you share this great opportunity with qualified students. We look forward to partnering with you in the future as we work to serve the Greater Denton County community.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mitzi S. Willis at 214-755-7260 or send an email to mitziwillis@verizon.net.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Cassandra M. McKinney
President
Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter
The Links, Incorporated

Mitzi S. Willis, Esq.
2019 GEMS Scholarship Chair
Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter
The Links, Incorporated

Growing and Empowering Minds for Success (GEMS) Scholarship



As a longstanding organization founded on principles rooted in empowering our communities, The Links Incorporated is proud to continue its unwavering support to African American girls dedicated to pursuing their vision for the future. Now in its second year, *The Growing and Empowering Minds for Success Scholarship* has afforded several young women resources to complement and expand on their plans for a college education. Our mission is founded in the idea that empowered girls become empowered women, and empowered women empower their communities!

The Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated will award several scholarships, including but not limited to the following:

- **GEMS 2020 SCHOLAR:** Our top award will go to one outstanding scholar who we determine has gone above and beyond in her academic pursuits, character development and community service.
- **GEMS 2020 STEM SCHOLAR:** A scholarship will be awarded to a female and male scholar who plans to pursue a higher-level education in a STEM field.
- **GEMS 2020 ARTS SCHOLAR:** A scholar seeking to pursue her education in the Arts.
- **GEMS 2020 HBCU SCHOLAR:** A scholarship will be awarded to a female and male scholar who plans to attend a Historically Black College and/or University. The student must apply, be accepted to and attend one of our nation's designated Historically Black College and/or Universities. If the student decides not to attend an HBCU, the scholarship will not be funded.

Requirements:

- 3.0 minimum GPA;
- Must be a graduating senior (Class of 2020) of African American heritage, who is a resident of or attends a high school in Denton County, Texas;
- Must be able to provide documented acceptance to a four-year college or university; and
- Evidence of service and/or involvement in groups and activities that enhance the lives of people in their community.
- Children, stepchildren, and grandchildren, and relatives of members of the Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated or other chapters of The Links, Incorporated are not eligible for scholarships.
- All applicants will be considered eligible for all applicable scholarships; however only STEM majors will be considered for STEM scholarships and only Arts majors will be considered for Art scholarships. Only applicants who have applied to an HBCU will be considered for the HBCU scholarship.

Application Guidelines:

1. The basic application for scholarship consists of:
 - a) Scholarship Application signed and dated by the applicant (Please note: this application is a fillable form and should be typed);
 - b) Recent photo attached to the application;
 - c) College Entrance Exam Score (SAT or ACT);
 - d) High School Transcript;
 - e) Two letters of recommendation. One letter **MUST** be from one of the applicant's teachers; 1000-word essay (see section on essay guidelines); and
 - f) Confirmation of acceptance by college, if received. If a confirmation letter has not been received, it **MUST** be submitted prior to the scholarship check being issued. In the event the applicant is not able to provide documentation of college acceptance, the scholarship will not be awarded.
2. The application must be completed in its entirety at the time of submission. Applicant will not be allowed to supplement the application and **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.**
3. **DEADLINE:** The completed application **MUST** be postmarked by **Monday, March 23, 2020.** Applications should be mailed to:

**Mitzi S. Willis, Scholarship Chair
Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter
The Links, Incorporated
P.O. Box 293893
Lewisville, Texas 75029**

4. Applicants who successfully complete the application and selected as finalists will proceed to the interview process, if deemed necessary by the Scholarship Committee. A personal interview with Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated Scholarship Committee will be conducted on **Sunday, April 5, 2020.** Written notification, via e-mail, will be sent to the applicant no later than **Thursday, April 2, 2020.**
5. Only applicants entering college in either the Summer of 2020 or the Fall of 2020 are eligible to receive this scholarship.

The Essay

Guidelines: Maximum of 1000 words.

Typed, Double-space, Times New Roman 12-point font.

The reparations movement was founded upon a belief that the United States government should compensate ancestors of African slaves who were unwillingly brought to this country between 1619 and 1865 (1867 in Texas). One of the principal arguments for reparations is the need of our government to recognize "the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies" during the period (See HR 3745). Today, some argue the systems of lawful discrimination also called "the legacy of slavery" are state-sanctioned violence, murder, denial and disqualification continued long after slavery ended and their lingering effects have impeded Black American's ability to produce and amass wealth, as well as gain access to jobs, housing, education and healthcare.

Please respond to each prompt below:

1. Do you feel descendants of African slaves are entitled to and should receive reparations based upon the enslavement of their ancestors?
2. Do you agree or disagree with the premise that today's Black Americans still suffer from the "legacy of slavery"?
 - a. If you agree with the premise of "legacy of slavery", then please elaborate on why you support this argument.
 - b. If you disagree with the premise of "the legacy of slavery", what factors do you believe affect the ability of the Black race to achieve equal stature with members of the majority race of the United States in 2020?
3. Regardless of whether reparations are awarded or not, what are your plans to aid the next generation of African American children in achieving their rightful places as world leaders in government, academia, business and/or industry?

Greater Denton County Chapter, The Links, Incorporated Scholarship Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Name:		Daytime Phone:	
Address:		Evening Phone:	
Email:		Social Media sites: Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/etc.	
Birth Date:	Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s):		
Address:		Phone:	

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION			
Grade Point Average (Cumulative):		Grade Point Average (Last Grading Period):	
High School:			Date of Graduation:
College(s) Applied To:			
Have you been accepted to a College? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		List your College Acceptances (Use next line if needed):	
Major Course of Study:		Do you plan to pursue a career in STEM or The Arts? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes , what are your STEM or Arts-related career plans and how will their focus in that area have a lasting, meaningful effect on our society?			
Do you plan to attend an HBCU? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
Organization(s) and Position(s) held with dates:	
Awards:	Honors:

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

ONE-PAGE ESSAY

Please provide a one-page essay indicating why you are majoring in the STEM field and why you should be selected as a Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated scholarship recipient.

I commit that the information provided is truthful and correct.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date