



January 20, 2023

Greetings from the Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated,

It is with great pleasure that we announce our 2023 Growing and Empowering Minds for Success (GEMS) Scholarships for African American scholars, graduating from high school in the spring of 2023.

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not for profit corporation based in Washington, DC. Established in 1946, with a membership consisting of more than 17,000 professional women of color in 299 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 (TX) Chapter is comprised of African American women who serve as corporate and non-profit leaders in business, medicine, law and other fields. Established in 2018, the GEMS Scholarship reflects our commitment to reaching back and providing the hand of friendship to young people in our community planning to attend a four-year college or university.

The 2023 GEMS Scholarship targets African American high school seniors attending a high school or who reside in Denton County Texas. 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 Friday, March 31, 2023. 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 Deanna Marsh at 214-641-5560 or Sharen Jackson at 817-980-1333 or [GDCCGEMScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:GDCCGEMScholarship@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Mitzi S. Willis  
President  
Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter  
The Links, Incorporated

Deanna Marsh and Sharen Jackson  
2023 GEMS Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs  
Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter  
The Links, Incorporated

# Growing and Empowering Minds for Success (GEMS) Scholarship

## OVERVIEW:

As a longstanding organization founded on principles rooted in empowering our communities, Greater Denton County (TX) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated is proud to continue its unwavering support to African American students dedicated to pursuing their vision for the future. Now in its third year, *The Growing and Empowering Minds for Success Scholarship* has afforded several young students resources to complement and expand on their plans for a college education.

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

- **GEMS 2023 SCHOLAR:** Our top award will go to one outstanding female who we determine has gone above and beyond in her academic pursuits, character development and community service.
- **GEMS 2023 STEM SCHOLAR:** A scholarship will be awarded to a female or male student who plans to pursue a higher-level education in a STEM field.
- **GEMS 2023 ARTS SCHOLAR:** A scholarship will be awarded to a female or male student seeking to pursue an education in the Arts.
- **GEMS 2023 HBCU SCHOLAR:** A scholarship will be awarded to a female or male student 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 2023) 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, 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 full scholarship application package consists of:

- a. Scholarship Application [Click here](#) to access and submit.
  - b. Recent photo
  - c. College Entrance Exam Score (SAT or ACT), if not applicable, please provide supporting documentation
  - d. High School Transcript
  - e. Two letters of recommendation. One letter MUST be from one of the applicant's teachers.
  - f. 1000-word essay (see section on essay guidelines)
  - g. 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.
  - h. 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.
2. **DEADLINE** – Completed application packages must be submitted by Friday, March 31, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Any questions should be emailed to [GDCCGEMScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:GDCCGEMScholarship@gmail.com)
3. Applicants who successfully complete the application and are selected as finalists **may** proceed to a personal interview, if deemed necessary by the Scholarship Committee. Written notification, via e-mail, will be sent to the applicants no later than **Saturday, April 15, 2023**.
4. Only applicants entering college in either the Summer of 2023 or the Fall of 2023 are eligible to receive this scholarship.

## **ESSAY GUIDELINES:**

- Maximum of 1000 words
- Typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font
- Please answer the following essay question:

*(1) Social media continues to be a dominant and necessary form of virtual communication. How has social media impacted you, your community, and the world? Consider the impacts on the economy, politics, societal issues, and entertainment.*

*(2) Describe a time when you overcame an obstacle and how did you do it? What did you learn from the experience?*