



SHIRLEY T. HILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The Ivy & Pearls for Excellence, Inc. of the Epsilon Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. maintains a scholarship fund to assist, financially, two young ladies from the Baltimore City public and parochial schools as they pursue a college education. These recipients must live in Baltimore City and must have been accepted by a **Historically Black College and University**. If, however, the recipients' career interest and their intended college major are unavailable at a historically Black college or university, a non-historically Black college or university will be acceptable. The Ivy & Pearls for Excellence, Inc. foundation, does not dictate the applicants' college major.

NATURE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship is in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) a year and is renewable providing the recipient has maintained a satisfactory scholastic average, and continues to have financial need. The scholarship is sent to the student and is to be used for purchasing book supplies, or any other charges assessed by the institution. A seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) check is issued each semester (August for fall semester and January for spring) for four years, upon receipt of an official college transcript indicating satisfactory achievement in the recipient's course of study.

METHOD OF SELECTION

Each year information concerning the scholarship is sent to the high schools in Baltimore City in the month of February with the application form and due date. To be eligible to apply, the student must:

- Be female
- Have a grade point average of 85 or higher
- Have a SAT score of 1370 or better or ACT score of 18 or better, or the required score of the college she will be attending
- Possess leadership potential
- Be involved in extracurricular/community service activities
- Have interest in pursuing post-secondary education
- Have financial need

After the applications have been received, they are reviewed by the scholarship committee to determine eligibility. A rating scale is used to judge each application essay.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, eligible candidates will be scheduled for a Zoom virtual interview by the committee. Each member of the interview team will complete a rating form for each candidate interviewed. After discussion of the ratings, each candidate is given a rank. The two candidates with the highest ranking are selected to receive the scholarship. If for some reason the scholarship is not used by one of the selected, it is given to the next applicant with the highest rank. The decision of the committee is final.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the Ivy & Pearls for Excellence, Inc. sponsors fundraisers to support the Shirley T. Hill Memorial Scholarship fund.

RECIPIENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Each scholarship recipient must submit an official college transcript to the scholarship committee chairperson at the conclusion of each semester; no later than June 10, for each spring semester and January 10 for fall semester. The scholarship committee will review each recipient's record after each semester, to determine satisfactory academic progress (3.0 or higher GPA) and continuation of scholarship. The recipient must also send notification of change in financial status or termination of program to the committee chairperson.

MENTORING OF RECIPIENTS

Each scholarship recipient is assigned annually a mentor on the Ivy & Pearls for Excellence, Inc. Scholarship Committee. It is the mentor's responsibility to:

- Initiate periodic contacts (oral/written) with the assigned recipient
- Suggest ways to overcome significant obstacles
- Refer student to appropriate resource persons/agencies when necessary
- Model behaviors which promote personal and professional development
- Report to the committee periodically about the recipient.