

## HISTORY OF THE DR. REGINAL D. HARRIS EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP



On or about January 10, 2000, Dr. Reginal D. Harris established the *Dr. Reginal D. Harris Educational Scholarship* to help defray some of the costs for American men of **African, Hispanic, or Latin** descent who are pursuing a field of study that will lead to a degree, certificate, or license from an accredited vocational, undergraduate, graduate institution of higher learning.

Historically, American men of African, Hispanic, and Latin descent struggle to pay college-related expenses at a rate significantly disproportionate to our Caucasian or European counterparts. On Tuesday, November 23, 1993, Dr. Harris sustained life-threatening physical injuries after his car was struck head-on by a drunk driver. Due to his inability to satisfy the physical fitness requirements of the *U.S. Army ROTC Green-to-Gold Scholarship*, he scholarship was withdrawn, which resulted in an inability for him to pay tuition, fees, and other costs of attending Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (COPPS). During his two years of intense physical and psychological rehabilitation, Dr. Harris found himself homeless and sleeping in his car for about eight months.

At the advice of his grandmother, the late Judie Belvin, who told him, “*Quitting is not an option*,” Dr. Harris worked two part-time jobs, one as a work study student and the other as a Pharmacy Technician at Eckerd Drugs, to help cover some of the costs. He promised his grandmother that he would create a scholarship so that others would have some help to pay for college. Over his last three years of college, Dr. Harris used the entitlements from his Montgomery GI Bill and sought other ways to pay for college. The Director of Financial Aid helped him locate, apply, and obtain grants from FAMU COPPS, Florida Department of Education, Pell Grant, and federally subsidized loans. These funds were extremely helpful in helping him to pay for his last three years of pharmacy school. On, Friday, April 25, 1997, he graduated earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. After graduating, he accepted a direct commission into the U.S. Air Force as a Pharmacist. Within four years, he paid off over \$42,000 in student loans, bought his first home, and started this scholarship by making the first \$500 donation.

In January 2010, he formed a Scholarship Committee that included himself, his brother, Stanley B. Harris, III and his Certified Financial Planner, Phillip M. Jackson, Sr. The committee created a formalized application process that selects up to three applicants to receive a share of **\$3,000.00 for that academic semester**. The application deadline is **SEPTEMBER 15** for the **Fall** semester and **JANUARY 15** for the **Spring** semester. Applicants are required to apply for the scholarship each semester because it is based on academic achievement **first** and then based on need. The committee has **never** set a minimum scholarship award, however the maximum award that any one recipient will receive for a semester is **\$1,500.00**.

The Scholarship Committee has made the process purposefully simple and tailored to encourage applicants to apply. The committee has taken a proactive approach in sharing our scholarship information with many vocational schools and institutions of higher learning. The **basic requirements** for consideration are to be (1). A man of **African, Hispanic, or Latin** descent; (2). Be actively enrolled at least **half-time** at an accredited vocational school, college, or university; (3). Have a minimum **3.15** cumulative grade point average; (4). Demonstrate a financial need; (5) Complete the scholarship application; and (6) Submit the completed application and supporting documentation **by the deadline**. The committee reserves the right to modify the selection process to meet the needs of the committee. **NO LATE APPLICATIONS HAVE EVER BEEN ACCEPTED!**

The scholarship award is made payable to the vocational school, college, or university **in the name of the recipient**, as part of his financial aid. We ask the educational institution to disperse the award so that we are confident that the student is actively enrolled and attending classes. The award is generally sent to the educational institution **after** the drop and add period. The committee takes every precaution to ensure the award is use for its intended purpose. **THERE IS NO MONETARY TRANSACTION** between the committee and the recipient.

Setting up this scholarship is a promise Dr. Harris made his grandmother before graduating from FAMU COPPS. For more than 20 years, he has personally funded the scholarship. Since starting the scholarship, well over **\$60,000.00** has been awarded to deserving American men of **African, Hispanic, or Latin** descent. None of the donations have been used for administrative or operational expenses, which has allowed for **100%** of the donations to be used to pay tuition and fees, purchase laptops, pay for textbooks, pay students' rent, or to pay for other educational-related expenses.

The Scholarship Committee are American men of African descent who know first-hand that education, certifications, and licensure are a very important key to unlocking the doors of personal and professional success.

All entries of this application must be legible and complete (as applicable). Incomplete or illegible applications will not be considered. All supporting documentation must be submitted by the **deadline of September 15** (if you are applying for consideration for Fall semester) or **deadline of January 15** (if you are applying for consideration for Spring semester). **Late application submissions will not be considered.**

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ALL PERSONAL DATA OR OTHER IDENTIFYING INFORMATION COLLECTED ON THIS APPLICATION WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. IT WILL NOT BE SHARED BEYOND THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE. YOUR PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION WILL REMAIN ON FILE FOR FIVE YEARS OR AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

## TYPING EACH ENTRY (THIS IS A WORD DOCUMENT).

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT ID NUMBER (assigned by college or university): \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY / STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ETHNICITY:  American of African Descent  American of Hispanic or Latin Descent

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ CITIZENSHIP (✓ only one):  U.S. Citizen  Naturalized U.S. Citizen  Permanent Resident Alien

COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ VISA TYPE: Immigrant Visa # \_\_\_\_\_ Immigrant Visa Categories \_\_\_\_\_ [LEAVE BLANK IF NOT APPLICABLE]

NAME OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOL/COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF INSTITUTION'S REGISTRAR: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY / STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

MATRICULATION STATUS (✓ only one):  Undergraduate Degree  Graduate/Professional Degree  Vocational Degree/Certificate

SEMESTER APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIP (✓ only one and include YEAR):  FALL \_\_\_\_\_  SPRING \_\_\_\_\_  SUMMER \_\_\_\_\_

AREA OR DEGREE OF ACADEMIC STUDY (MAJOR/MINOR): \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT CUMULATIVE GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ (a copy of OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT is required)

If you are applying for this scholarship as an incoming college freshman, provide your final High School GPA and a copy of your final official transcript. If applying for this scholarship and you are already attending college, provide overall GPA as of the date applying for scholarship and copy of your official transcript.

Please list at least FIVE (not more than TEN) academic honors you received WHILE in high school. Please list at least FIVE (not more than TEN) academic honors you received SINCE being in college/university. If you have not attended college/university, please provide honors while in high school only. Please be as specific as possible.

## START TYPING HERE:

Please list all extracurricular activities, community service activities, volunteer services, and clubs, sports, societies, or sports of which you participated in high school and college/university (if you have not attended college/university, just provide activities in high school). Please list the activity or affiliation with year(s) in which you were involved. Be specific.

## START TYPING HERE:

Write a 250-word essay how this scholarship will help DEFRAY THE COST OF YOUR EXPENSES AND ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS. Be certain that your essay is checked for spelling and grammatical errors. Your essay needs to be honest and specific. There is no wrong answer. Please do not exceed the word limit. Feel free to submit your essay as an attachment to this application or type or write it legibly below.

## START TYPING HERE:

## DR. REGINAL D. HARRIS EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

**CHECKLIST – Initial next to each item below. All items must be initialed before you sign, date, and submit this application and all supporting documentation. If your application is incomplete or missing any required supporting documentation, it WILL NOT be considered by the committee. The deadline for Fall semester applications is SEPTEMBER 15 and for Spring semester is JANUARY 15.**

### TYPING EACH ENTRY (THIS IS A WORD DOCUMENT).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Enclose TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.** Please limit each letter to one typed page. The letters MAY NOT be from family members or relatives. Each letter must be on the recommender's letterhead, include his/her name, contact information, years of relationship. Most importantly, the letter should address **WHY YOU SHOULD RECEIVE THE SCHOLARSHIP**. Letters must be in a sealed envelope and included in your completed application packet.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Enclose or write in the space above, a 250-word essay** how this scholarship will help defray the costs of your expenses and achieve your academic goals. Do not exceed the word limit.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Enclose a current professional resume.** Please limit your resume to no more than two-typed pages.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **Enclose a copy of your OFFICIAL transcript as indicated above.** It must be in a **sealed envelope** from the educational institution from which it is being provided. Please have your transcript sent to you. Your transcript will not be copied or shared with anyone outside of the scholarship committee. It will be safeguarded and shared by encryption, if it is sent over the internet.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ **Enclose a copy of the current enrollment verification** provided to you by your college/university Registrar's office.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ **Enclose all the above required documentation in ONE envelope.** This application and all supporting documentation must be sent in one package by U.S. Postal Mail addressed as follows:

Dr. Reginal D. Harris, Esq.  
Attn: Educational Scholarship Committee  
Post Office Box 382  
Converse, Texas 78109-0382.

**By typing your name below, you are providing an electronic signature. You acknowledge that you have read and completed this application in good faith with true and accurate information to the best of your knowledge and belief. You consent to providing your personal identifying information to the scholarship committee only for the expressed purpose of considering you for this scholarship. You attest that you have enclosed ALL required supporting documentation.**

### TYPING EACH ENTRY (THIS IS A WORD DOCUMENT).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for applying for this scholarship. Upon receipt of your completed and signed application packet, we will review it and decide within **2 to 4 weeks**. You will be notified of our decision **both** by email and U.S. postal first-class mail. Best wishes on your pursuit for academic excellence and achievement.

**Application Last Updated: August 3, 2020.**