

FINISH STRONG SCHOLARSHIP 2020

For Graduating Seniors of North Kansas City Schools

This scholarship, provided by the Darrel Bland Sertoma Club, was established to provide funds to financially disadvantaged students graduating from one of the district's high schools. Additionally, applicants should have faced and overcome some adversity to "Finish Strong". This scholarship of \$1,000 each will be awarded to at least two seniors attending an accredited college or university. Scholarship funds must be used for the 2020 fall semester and will be paid directly to the college or university of their choice.

Criteria:

- A graduating high school senior planning to enter college no later than the fall semester following graduation
- A strong desire to pursue a bachelor's degree from an accredited school (This includes attending a junior college and then transferring to complete a degree.)
- Demonstration of ability and effort to overcome adversity
- Involvement in extra-curricular activities and community service
- Minimum of 3.0 grade point average
- Demonstration of financial need and United States citizenship

Selection Process:

- Each high school will solicit applicants and screen them to select no more than 5 finalists. **(NOTE: High school counselor/teacher will complete the form at the end of the application packet.)**
- Applications from each high school will be forwarded to Jan Lewis, Education Foundation director, and then to the Darrel Bland Sertoma Club Scholarship Committee.
- The committee will review all applications and select at least two scholarship recipients.

Timeline:

- Applications will be made available to district high schools by **December 2019**.
- Applications must be postmarked or delivered to the high school Counseling Office by **Tuesday, March 3, 2020**.
- Applications of finalists must be forwarded to Jan Lewis, Education Foundation director, by **Thursday, March 12, 2020**.
- Finish Strong Scholarship recipients will be notified of their selection by **Friday, April 24, 2020**, and recognized during their high schools' Senior Honors Programs.

Finish Strong Scholarship Application

This document will provide us with confirmation of your experience and eligibility for our scholarship. All information submitted will remain confidential.

Graduating from: NKCHS ☐ OPHS ☐ SHS ☐ WHS ☐

U.S. Citizen: Yes ☐ No ☐

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: (Please print or type application for legibility.)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

High School Student ID _____ Date of Birth _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Personal Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Gender (M or F) _____ Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Anticipated College/University _____ Anticipated Major _____

ACADEMIC & HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Grade Point Average _____ Class Rank _____ Out of How Many Students _____

ACT Score (if taken) _____ SAT Score (if taken) _____

Guidance Counselor's Signature _____

PAID EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION (if applicable):

Employer _____ Average number of hours worked per week _____

Employer's Signature _____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (Refer to tax returns, FAFSA reports and financial aid calculators.)

Are you a dependent of your parent(s)/guardian(s)? Yes _____ No _____

If you are a dependent, the first two answers are based on you parent/guardian's income. If you are independent, wards of the state, or in foster care, the first two answers are based on your income alone. The third answer is your annual income, if you are employed.

Gross Annual Income \$ _____ Adjusted Gross Annual Income \$ _____

Student Annual Income \$ _____

Are you eligible for the free and reduced meal program at your school? Yes _____ No _____

Are you currently receiving any state or federal assistance? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please list aid programs: _____

Total number of people dependent on this annual income, including applicant: _____

Anticipated Resources: (This will help us determine financial need and financial aid you may receive to further your education.)

Estimated Student Contribution: \$ _____

Estimated Parent(s)/Guardian Contribution: \$ _____

Scholarships and Grants (received to date): \$ _____

Other Resources (excluding loans): \$ _____

Financing Your Education: (Briefly explain how you plan to finance your college education.)

If any of these adversities below or others apply to you, please explain them in your essay.

Have you personally ever experienced a serious illness or traumatic accident?

Has a close family member ever experienced a serious illness or traumatic accident?

Do you live in a household where a parent/guardian has abused alcohol or drugs?

Have you experienced the death of a parent/guardian?

Do you have a physical or mental disability?

Are you or have you been in foster care or a ward of the state?

Have you suffered from physical or mental abuse?

Have you ever been homeless?

ESSAYS:

Please provide the following information so that we may learn more about you.

Personal Description of Your Adversity: Briefly explain the adversities (as listed in the section above) or any financial hardships that you currently face or have faced that have impacted your ability to achieve your maximum potential in high school. Explain what you have done to overcome these obstacles to pursue your education. (Your essay should be 500 words or less. You may use the back of this page or attach your essay.)

[illegible]

Personal Statement: Please describe in your own words:

- What character traits you possess that helped you to overcome personal adversity
- Your degree of commitment to pursue a college education
- How you anticipate making a contribution to society

(Your essay should be 300 words or less. You may use the back of this page or attach your essay.)

[illegible]

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND ATTACH IT TO YOUR APPLICATION. ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT THAT INCLUDES GRADES FROM THE FIRST SEMESTER OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR.

List your involvement in on- or off-campus extracurricular activities during high school. Include any positions held, such as president, secretary, committee chair, etc. Use an additional sheet if necessary.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/ PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Date	Activity	Most Significant Contribution

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS/AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Date	Activity	Most Significant Contribution

CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

Date	Activity	Most Significant Contribution

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS/SPORTS OR PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Date	Activity	Most Significant Contribution

Completed Application: The following materials are required for your application to be complete:

1. Student application 2. Official transcript 3. **Two** letters of recommendation

Letters of recommendation should be completed by a teacher, employer, volunteer coordinator, etc. and placed in a sealed envelope before returning to the student.

Please submit all materials in one envelope to your high school counselor by the deadline.

After review at your high school, the applications of 5 finalists will be forwarded by March 12, 2020, to:

FINISH STRONG SCHOLARSHIP
c/o Jan Lewis
North Kansas City Schools Education Foundation
2000 NE 46th Street
Kansas City, MO 64116
816-321-5550/jan.lewis@nkcschools.org

Counselor Recommendation Form for the Scholarship Applicant

You may answer the following questions on a separate sheet, if preferred.

Name of Applicant _____

1. In what capacity and how long have you known this applicant?
2. What have you observed about this applicant's ability to "Finish Strong" in the face of adversity?
3. How dedicated is this applicant to his/her pursuit of a college degree?
4. Please describe the special qualities this applicant demonstrates that makes him/her deserving of this scholarship. Add any additional comments.

Name _____

Date _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Signature _____