

FREDERICK DOUGLASS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is administered by The Erie Community Foundation based on recommendations of the donors, advisory committee members, and a staff member of The Foundation.

WHO WAS FREDERICK DOUGLASS?

Frederick Douglass was a self-educated man, born a slave in Maryland in 1817. In his youth he worked as a household servant, a plantation field hand, and a shipyard apprentice, before escaping to the north in 1838. While working in the shipyards of New Bedford, MA, Mr. Douglass began speaking out for abolition and social reform. After English friends purchased his freedom in 1847, he moved to Rochester, New York, where he co-founded an anti-slavery newspaper. After the Civil War, Douglass was appointed to several government posts in Washington, DC, and he later served as American Minister to Haiti. He died in 1895.

Frederick Douglass was a person disadvantaged by birth who combined native intelligence and can-do attitude to fulfill his potential in spite of overwhelming obstacles.

The **Frederick Douglass Scholarship** was established to help African American youth in the City of Erie obtain a college education needed for productive (and living wage) adult careers, thus following the example that Frederick Douglass set of fulfilling their potential.

- Help qualified African American students attending the City of Erie public schools with the costs of college education
- Be an incentive for African American underclass students to get serious about academic achievement in their remaining years of school

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR QUALIFYING FOR AN INITIAL AWARD OF THIS SCHOLARSHIP?

1. **Written application for scholarship** completed and submitted by specified deadline (copy of application form attached);
2. **Good high school grades** (career GPA at least 3.0 or, if applicant earned a GED, top quartile of GED graduates);
3. **Written recommendations** from two teachers who know the applicant;
4. **Acceptance for an undergraduate degree program** at an accredited college or university;
5. **Written essay** showing applicant's aptitude in communicating and in critical thinking (see Essay topic, below);
6. If, based on the first five criteria, the Advisory Committee finds an applicant eligible for a scholarship; the Committee may schedule an *interview* to discern the applicant's desire to achieve a college education;

WHAT ARE THE SCHOLARSHIP GOALS?

Essay topic:

"In your own words, please write a brief explanation of (1.) how you expect to benefit from a college education, and (2.) how will your family and friends gain from your having a college education." Suggestion: include intangible things (such as life experience and appreciation of learning) as well as the more tangible ones (such as career preparation and earning power).

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GUIDELINES

1. In 2022, several one-year scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors, and previous scholarship recipients will be eligible to apply for renewals.
2. Each new scholarship will be in the range of \$2,000 to \$3,000; renewals will be \$500. The Frederick Douglass Scholarship Fund principal will be used in addition to interest.
3. The money awarded will be by check payable to the college -- it may be applied to tuition, student fees, or books.
4. The awards are made by the Foundation's board, based on recommendations of the Advisory Committee.
5. Availability of this scholarship and copies of applications will be distributed to high school administrators and counselors in the City of Erie School District. Applications can also be printed from our web site at www.eriecommunityfoundation.org/scholarships.
6. Students who have been awarded a Frederick Douglass Scholarship and wish to renew it must ***encourage academic achievement of other Erie African American youth*** by making arrangements to speak to an assembly, class or similar gathering of **public elementary school students in Erie**. **A copy of the typed text of candidate's presentation must accompany the renewal application**, along with the date and place of the presentation, and include the signature of the teacher in charge. **This is not optional and must be done prior to renewal.**
7. **Deadline for submitting a scholarship application is March 1, 2024.**
Mail or deliver to:
**Frederick Douglass Scholarship Fund
The Erie Community Foundation
459 West 6th St.
Erie, PA 16507**
8. The Advisory Committee will schedule interviews with eligible applicants during March, 2024 and awards will be announced on or before May 3, 2024.

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Mail or deliver completed application, with required enclosures, to:
Frederick Douglass Scholarship Fund
The Erie Community Foundation
459 West 6th St.
Erie, PA 16507

Deadline: March 1, 2024

The Advisory Committee will schedule interviews with eligible applicants during March and awards will be announced on or before April 28, 2023.

PLEASE PRINT

A. APPLICANT DATA

1. Student's name: _____
2. Age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Home Phone: _____
3. Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
4. E-mail Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Name of high school you are attending: _____

Graduation date: _____ Your Career GPA: _____ Class rank: _____

S.A.T. scores Verbal: _____ Math: _____ Writing: _____ or ACT Composite: _____

[Please include copies of transcript and latest report card]

Name of school counselor/faculty advisor: _____

List awards, student offices held, and extra-curricular activities: _____

B. FAMILY DATA

1. Name(s) of parent(s) or guardian: _____

2. Address: _____ Phone: _____

C. FINANCIAL DATA

1. Student's place of employment, if any: _____

2. Parent(s)/Guardian occupation: _____

Place of employment, if any: _____

3. Other sources of income, if any: _____

4. List other scholarships applying for (include amounts):

D. COLLEGE DATA

Name of college/university you plan to attend: _____

Enclose or forward a copy of the letter of acceptance.

Amount of tuition: \$ _____ Intended major: _____

Student fees/supplies: \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

E. SIGNATURES

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent(s) or guardian: _____ Date: _____