ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

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2021 - 2022

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October 4, 2021

Dear Asheville City Council,

Thank you for your trust in the Asheville City Schools Foundation's management of the City's unclaimed settlement fund donation, totaling $474,592.56. This generous donation has been used to further the following goals for our Asheville City Schools community:

1. ACS and ACSF are actively working together towards a proportionate ratio of Black certified teachers for Black students, increasing from the current rate of 6% to at least 12%.
2. In pursuit of the primary goal, ACSF will support tuition fees for a cohort of 10 current Black staff's career advancement in education (e.g., teacher licensure, school counseling, school leadership), creating the first Black Educator Excellence cohort.
3. ACSF will provide college tuition support for Black high school students who want to pursue careers in education (e.g., teaching, school social work) to be awarded annually in perpetuity, creating the City of Asheville Student Scholarship.

The Black Educator Excellence Cohort
ACSF and ACS recognize that our stated commitments to close the racial opportunity gap must include robust support for current Black staff and an innovative BIPOC recruitment and retention program. The Black Educator Excellence cohort is part of a larger ACS commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive culture for BIPOC staff.

The Black Educator Excellence expenses include tuition for current ACS faculty and staff to complete their degrees, cohort meeting expenses, book stipends, and graduation expenses. The total budget for the Black Educator Excellence Cohort is $200,000, with up to $25,000 per cohort member depending on tuition costs.

These funds gifted by the City of Asheville will contribute to bolstering our Black professionals within the ACS district with hopes to improve the lived realities of Black students, families and community members. Currently, ten faculty and staff members have been recruited as part of the 2021-2022 cohort. Cohort members are attending various institutions including Mars Hill University, Western Carolina University, and East Carolina University. Within this cohort, we have educators who are obtaining their Doctorate in Education, Masters in Administration, Social Work, Counseling, Teaching Licensures and undergraduate degrees in educational fields. To provide an additive layer of support for cohort members, ACS will be providing monthly academic support sessions and ACSF will host monthly social gatherings. Dr. Stanley will engage the cohort in ongoing qualitative research to maximize the impact of the cohort model. This research will ensure the responsiveness and sustainability of the cohort over time.

The City of Asheville Student Scholarship
Last May, ACSF was deeply honored to award the first $10,000.00 City of Asheville Student Scholarship (payable at $2,500 per year for 4 years) to graduating senior, Jayla Williams. Ms. Williams is attending North Carolina Central University where she is currently studying Child Development and Education.

In the face of challenges brought about by COVID-19, such as remote learning and managing a safe return to school buildings, our students experienced a year unlike any other. While this year was riddled with obstacles, it also sparked creativity, innovation, and a resiliency which further motivated our graduates to be the change they seek in our community, nation, and world. In 2020-2021, ACSF awarded over $212,000.00 in scholarships to 36 graduating seniors at Asheville High and SILSA. Approximately 20% of ACSF's scholarship recipients in 2021 were first generation college students, and 100% of recipients demonstrated financial need. These inspired young leaders eloquently spoke to the challenges they are dedicated to addressing, from rooting out police brutality and racial disparities in our criminal justice system to creating inventive solutions to combating climate change. We find ourselves incredibly grateful for the opportunity to support and draw inspiration from these selfless young individuals.

To further support our students in what we knew would be a difficult school year, ACSF expanded the College Emergency Assistance Fund for scholarship recipients, provided community mentors to support college and scholarship applications, and partnered with other organizations such as the College Foundation of North Carolina to offer support sessions on topics such as navigating financial options for tuition. ACSF is committed to being an ongoing resource for our alumni and to continuously strengthen the support that we offer our scholarship recipients.

Please find enclosed the list of Black Educator Excellence cohort members and their respective degrees, a thank you letter from the City of Asheville Scholarship recipient, and the 2021-2022 ACSF scholarship catalog. Thank you for sharing our belief that investing in Asheville's youth and educators yields an invaluable return for our community. Please contact me with any questions or if I can be of any assistance.

In community,

Copland Arnold Rudolph
Executive Director
Asheville City Schools Foundation
(828) 350-6174

Dr. Mark Dickerson
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Asheville City Schools
(828) 350-7000

BLACK educator EXELLENCE



ASHLEY ALLEN
INTEGRATED EDUCATION
Mars Hill University
Claxton Elementary School



MISTY BECK
MASTERS IN SOCIAL WORK
Western Carolina University
Asheville Middle School and
Montford North Star Academy



SYBIL JEFFERSON
MASTERS IN ADMINISTRATION
Western Carolina University
Asheville High School



OCTAVIA HAMILTON
CERTIFICATION IN SPECIAL
EDUCATION K-12
Mars Hill University
Isaac Dickson Elementary



RONALD SCOTT
BACHELORS IN FAMILY/CON.
SCIENCE EDUCATION
East Carolina University
Asheville High School



NICOLE CUSH
DOCTORATE-EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
Western Carolina University
SILSA High School



RUAFIKA COBB
DOCTORATE-EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
Western Carolina University
Ira B. Jones Elementary



KIMBERLY JONES
BACHELORS IN SOCIAL WORK
Mars Hill University
ACS Central Office Administrator



ANGEL REDMOND
MASTERS IN COUNSELING
Mars Hill University
ACS Mental Health Specialist



CASSANDRA WELLS
TEACHING LICENSURE K-6
Mars Hill University
ACS Teaching Assistant

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

May 28, 2021

Dear Asheville City Council,

My name is Jayla Williams, and I was born on March 13, 2003, in Asheville, North Carolina. My parents are Ervinia Petty and Jerry Wiliams. My father is deceased and passed away at the age of 35 on July 2, 2016, due to gun violence. My mother is 46 years old and is from Asheville, North Carolina.

I just wanted to say thank you for allowing me to have the opportunity to apply for this scholarship and to receive the award. With your selfless generosity you have made it one step easier for me to achieve my goal. I felt a breath of fresh air when I received this scholarship award because I put so much effort into my high school education, especially during this time where I had to shift environments and adapt to being isolated. I wouldn't say that Covid took a toll on my mental health, but it certainly made things more difficult. I honestly feel so proud of myself and what I have done to prove that I am worth winning this scholarship. Words can't explain why I am thankful for you and your dedication to help students out with not only finances, but creating better life choices for themselves and their families. Yes, it is just scholarship money but you never know what could be someone's one way ticket to success. My mother struggled with my sister and I as children and had to cry for help on numerous occasions, so I know first hand that resources and outlets like these are incredibly beneficial to families in need.



I find it bittersweet that I am graduating from SILSA on May 29, 2021. I remember walking into Mr. Hughes freshman AVID class. "Good Morning freshmens, I will be your teacher for this year." Now it's "Goodbye Jayla, you were an amazing student and I hope you keep in touch." They always say that high school goes by fast and they weren't lying. I just tell myself to remember that if you can make it this far you can make it even further in life.

In the fall, I will be attending North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina. I have always wanted to attend an HBCU and I am doing just that! I will pursue a career in child development and education and work in a daycare setting. I was first introduced to childcare my sophomore year when I worked in my school's child care facility. It was an experience that I am happy to share with others as it can push them to do what they love. Dealing with children consists of patience and consistency and not many people can handle it, but I know the loud cries and temper tantrums will be worth the experience.

Not only does this scholarship motivate me, but you do as well. To provide a resource to enable graduating students to attend college is generous and powerful. Thank you for believing in me.

Sincerely,

Jayla Williams
North Carolina Central University, Class of 2025

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

2021 2022 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS



ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIPS

2021 - 2022

WELCOME CLASS OF 2022!

Asheville City Schools Foundation Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis to Asheville High and SILSA students. Applicants should fit these criteria:

- ☐ Enrolled as a senior at Asheville High or SILSA
- ☐ Attending an accredited 2 or 4 year college or university
- ☐ Demonstrated financial need as indicated by a FAFSA EFC of $14,000 or less (some exceptions may apply)
- ☐ Earned a weighted GPA of 2.75 (some exceptions may apply- several of our multi-year scholarships require a 3.0 or above)
- ☐ Supported the community through volunteer service

What does ACSF look for in applicants? Our scholarship committee takes a number of factors into consideration when reviewing applicants, including: academic history, community involvement, extra-curricular involvement, work experience, leadership, communication skills, maturity, self-awareness, financial need and expected family contribution, outside scholarships and grants awarded, type of school/university (public or private), and length of time spent in ACS.

Additional criteria for individual scholarships are stated in the following descriptions.
For more information or to apply visit: **www.acsf.org/scholarships**

QUESTIONS?



Brandon Whiteside, MSW SSW | He/Him/His
Scholarship and Alumni Center Coordinator
Asheville City Schools Foundation
(828) 350-6182 / brandon.whiteside@acsgmail.net

Graduate: Western Carolina University, Class of 2021
Undergraduate: UNC Asheville, Class of 2016
Asheville High School, Class of 2010

APPLICATIONS OPEN MONDAY NOVEMBER 1ST
APPLICATION DEADLINE MONDAY JANUARY 31ST MIDNIGHT EST

COMMUNITIES THRIVE WHEN STUDENTS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. It is critical that Asheville City Schools graduates have opportunities to pursue higher learning and careers. That is why we provide over $180,000 in new and renewing scholarships each year to support students as they pursue higher education and become the future leaders of our community. Since 2000, over $3 million has been awarded to AHS and SILSA graduates. ACSF awards approximately 35 scholarships annually ranging from $500 – $10,000.

CLASS OF 2021 AWARDEES



APPLICATION TIMELINE

We have **one online application for all scholarships**. The application process opens **November 1st** and all applications are due **January 31st**. All applicants are **required to have at least two sessions** with the AHS Writing Center for application support. We typically receive 70–80 applications each year.

Our scholarship committee reviews the applications, reads the essays, and interviews the final round of eligible students. **In February,** students are notified by email if they have received an interview to be considered for a scholarship. Interviews are held in **late March.**

In early April, students are notified that they have received a scholarship. Specific scholarship details will be announced in **late May**.

Information and support sessions will be available throughout **October–March**. Please contact **Brandon Whiteside**, Scholarship Coordinator, with questions or concerns at any point throughout this process.

ANNOUNCING NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

The Asheville City Schools Foundation is honored to remember the following vibrant members of our ACS community through the creation of the **Chris Merrill Memorial Scholarship** and the **Patricia Ann Griffin Memorial Scholarship**, established in loving memory by their families and friends in 2021.

CHRIS MERRILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Chris Merrill was a beloved son, brother, and friend. Known for his quick wit, entrepreneurial spirit, and deep loyalty and care for his loved ones, he touched the lives of everyone who was fortunate to spend time around him. Chris was driven to be a natural leader and demonstrated an incredible work ethic. He graduated with honors from AHS in 2004. A captain of both the Cougars' soccer and basketball teams his senior year, he was also a tenacious player for his HFC and Storm travel teams. He went on to obtain a business degree from NC State University and then pursued a successful career in online marketing, including the establishment of several companies. Chris loved outdoor activities including camping, snowboarding, water skiing, and tubing on Lake Keowee. He had a passion for NC State sports and supported the Wolfpack teams as a season ticket-holder. He liked little more than rubbing in NC State's annual football victory over Carolina to his family full of Tar Heels.



Chris will be remembered as clever, playful, and caring, and his trademark was his devotion to his family and many friends. ***Read more about the Chris Merrill Memorial Scholarship in the following pages.***

PATRICIA ANN GRIFFIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Patricia Ann Griffin grew up in Asheville, the second oldest of five children, and attended Asheville City Schools. Patricia graduated from Stephens-Lee High School in Asheville in 1959. After attending Stillman College for one year, she received a B.A. from Mars Hill College in 1971. She received a M.A. in Education from Western Carolina University in 1985. She retired from the Asheville City Schools in 2003 after working over 30 years as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and administrator. She cared deeply about her students and dedicated her career to doing what she could to improve the outcomes of traditionally marginalized and overlooked students, especially Black students in the school system.



Throughout her time with Asheville City Schools, she mentored many younger colleagues who strived to excel as educators. Patricia received numerous awards and accolades throughout her long career. She loved to laugh, dance, travel, enjoy life, spend time with her loved ones.

Asheville's education community owes a great debt to Mrs. Pat Griffin and her unwavering vision of educational equity. ***Read more about the Patricia Ann Griffin Memorial Scholarship in the following pages.***

THE FOLLOWING ARE TYPICAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY ACSF
-AWARDS MAY VARY BASED UPON DONOR DISCRETION-

The Asheville Promise Scholarship is a community funded, last dollar scholarship up to $1,000. Preference is given to In Real Life After-School alumni, IRL after-school mentors, DREAM interns, and/or first generation college attendees.

The Bill Dechant Memorial Scholarship is a one-time award of $1,000 to a student who exhibits good character and leadership skills, has maintained a good academic average, and has a history of playing Field Hockey.

The Bruce & Jean Larson Community Service Scholarship is a four-year renewable scholarship of $4,000 to one student payable at $1,000 each year for 4 years (subject to satisfactory performance and progress). It is awarded to a student who will attend a four-year college or university, has a concern for others as demonstrated by significant community service activities throughout high school, and has an interest in and respect for cultural diversity as demonstrated by relevant school and community activities.

The Chris Merrill Memorial Scholarship is a one-time award of $4,000 to a student who will attend a NC publicly funded four-year or community college. The student must have participated in team sports at Asheville High School, and have shown evidence of leadership as well as true caring for the well-being of their teammates.

The City of Asheville Scholarship is a four-year renewable scholarship of $10,000, payable at $2,500 per year for 4 years (subject to satisfactory performance and progress), for Black/African-American students that have demonstrated excellent character and intend to pursue a career in education.

The Deutsch Family Scholarship is a one-time award of $1,500 to a student who has promoted racial, religious, and cultural harmony while in school.

The John B. Lewis Scholarship is a one-time award of $1,000 to a student who will attend a NC publicly funded four-year or community college. The student must have participated in team sports at Asheville High School, and show evidence of leadership ability, community service and/or employment experience.

The Dr. Keith Black Scholarship is a one-time award of $500 to a student pursuing a health-related career, has participated in at least one extra-curricular activity, or works after school and has 3.0.

The Lee H. Edwards Class of '48 Scholarship is a one-time award of $3,000 to a student in the upper 30% of the class who will attend a NC publicly funded four-year or community college.

The Lee H. Edwards Class of '51 Scholarship is a one-time award of $2,000 to a student with a history of volunteer service. Students planning to attend vocational schools are preferred.

The Mel Hetland Scholarship is a one-time award of between $1,000-$2,000 to a student who identifies as belonging to the Global Majority (i.e. BIPOC), will attend an accredited two or four year college or university, and has a history of community service. Preference given to a student who is the first in their family to attend college.

The Mitchell Carlisle Memorial Scholarship is a one-time award of $1,000 to a student ranked in the top 20% of their class who has been involved in athletics and participates in school activities.

Paddison Family Foundation Scholarship is a four-year renewable scholarship of $10,000, payable at $2,500 per year (subject to satisfactory performance and progress), for students that have demonstrated excellent character, show evidence of leadership ability, and have extensive community service and /or employment experience.

The Patricia Ann Griffin Memorial Scholarship is a one-time award of $3,000 to a student who has demonstrated a deep commitment towards being an advocate in education and supporting their community through volunteer service. Preference is given to students of color intending to pursue a career in education or another helping profession.

The Pepsi Cola Scholarship is a one-time award of $3,500 to a student who has demonstrated scholastic achievement and will attend Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.

The Peterson-Stanley Future Educator Scholarship is a one-time award of $1,000 to a student who intends to pursue a career in education, demonstrates good character, and has had extra-curricular involvement and/or work experience.

The Reed Scholarship for Applied Awesomeness is a four-year renewable scholarship of $10,000, payable at $2,500 per year for 4 years (subject to satisfactory performance and progress), for students that have demonstrated excellent character

The Seth David Shillcock Olson Scholarship is a one-time award of $1,000 to a student who has participated in AHS athletics, is able to document a history of employment experience, volunteer service to the community, and will be attending a publicly funded 4 year university.

William E. Drake Scholarship is a one-time award of $2,000 to students who plan to attend UNC Chapel Hill, are in the top 20% of their graduating class, and have worked to help support themselves while in high school.

The SECU Foundation Scholarship is a four year renewable scholarship of $10,000 (payable at $1,250 for up to eight consecutive semesters) for a student to attend one of the 16 constituent campuses of the University of North Carolina System. The SECU Scholarship is administered by ACSF and uses the following eligibility criteria:

Student is either a SECU member or is eligible for membership through a parent/guardian. Student or their parent/guardian must be a member at the time of application. **Please note-** SECU Foundation does not accept Local Government Federal Credit Union Memberships*

Student is a senior at a North Carolina public high school who has been accepted to one of the 16 constituent campuses of the University of North Carolina System.

Student is a US citizen and a resident of North Carolina under NCGS 116-143.1 and is eligible for in-state tuition.

Student best exemplifies the "People Helping People" philosophy of SECU, and has demonstrated leadership, excellence of character, integrity, and community involvement.

Student demonstrates scholastic achievement with a maintained 2.5 or higher unweighted grade point average on a 4.0 scale and may be deserving of financial aid.

Will use the scholarship to pay for full-time undergraduate student tuition and fees.

Agrees to continue as a full-time student in good standing with the same university for up to 8 consecutive fall/spring semesters payable at $1,250 per semester. Scholarships are not transferable without prior approval of SECU Foundation.

Is not a director, employee, or family member of a director or employee of SECU or the SECU Foundation, or a family member of a member of the scholarship selection committee.

* ***Why doesn't SECU accept Local Government Federal Credit Union Memberships?***
My banking is physically done at a SECU, so why am I not considered eligible? LGFCU and SECU are considered to be separate credit unions. These two unions partnered so that members of LGFCU could access the services of SECU's branches and their ATM network.

STUDENT SUPPORTS

The Writing Center – In 2019, ACSF funded the creation and operation of the Writing Center at Asheville High. The mission of the Writing Center is to serve students of all writing abilities during the school day. The Writing Center is available to support students as they craft their college and scholarship essays and resumes. **All scholarship applicants are required to schedule at least 2 sessions with the Writing Center to support their application.** To schedule an appointment, visit: https://sites.google.com/acsgmail.net/ahswritingcenter, or email Mrs. Galvin at amanda.galvin@acsgmail.net.

College and Scholarship Applications –The Asheville City Schools Foundation offers one-on-one virtual college application and scholarship support sessions. If a student would like to receive support applying to college, writing application essays, building their resume, or if they have questions concerning eligibility or their scholarship application, please contact Brandon Whiteside, ACSF Scholarship and Alumni Center Coordinator. Brandon will match students with community mentors who have experience with the ACSF scholarship and college application process.

ACSF Lunch and Learn Series – Visit www.acsf.org or the AHS Alumni Center for more information:

- Resume Building with Blue Ridge Tutoring – November and January
- Financial Literacy with Bank of America's Better Money Habits – December
- College Application Essay Support with the Writing Center – November and January
- Interview Coaching with Blue Ridge Tutoring – March
- Reviewing Financial Award Letters with the College Foundation of NC – February
- Identifying Additional Scholarship Opportunities with ACSF – December

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(WE WON'T FOLLOW YOU BACK)

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Asheville City Schools Foundation is to implement bold strategies, fund big ideas, and engage the community to increase excellence with equity for all children in our schools.

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

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