



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Xi Sigma Omega Chapter P. O. Box 3381 Gaithersburg, MD 20898



Pearls of Hope Community Foundation, Incorporated
16501 Shady Grove Road, #7222 Gaithersburg, MD 20885

November 1, 2019

Dear Students,

The Xi Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated® in collaboration with the Pearls of Hope Community Foundation, Incorporated (POHCF), is pleased to announce the 2020 Scholarship Program! This exciting scholarship program offers scholarships ranging from \$500 - \$4,500 over various years.

In our 36 years of existence as a Chapter, Xi Sigma Omega has awarded more than \$195,000 in scholarships! In these times of economic need, we are proud to continue our tradition of making a difference in Upper Montgomery County, Maryland. To be eligible for these scholarships, you must be a Montgomery County high school senior and reside in Montgomery County, MD.

We are currently seeking students to apply for a variety of scholarships that are named in the memory of many of our beloved members. The attached package contains all the details you need in order to apply. Please make certain that you submit a complete scholarship application package, as incomplete packages will not be considered. Please read all information carefully and follow all instructions. The scholarship deadline is **Friday, January 31, 2020 no later than midnight EST.**

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Khadija F. Barkley at akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com or 202-422-4327, if you have any questions. Thank you for your interest, and we wish you the best in the final months of your high school career. We hope you consider applying for our scholarships!

Sincerely,

Dr. Arla J. Bentley

Dr. Arla J. Bentley
 President
 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
 Xi Sigma Omega Chapter

Khadija F. Barkley

Khadija F. Barkley,
 Scholarship Chairperson
 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
 Xi Sigma Omega Chapter

Charlene Jackson Matthews

Charlene Jackson Matthews, President
 Pearls of Hope Community Foundation, Incorporated



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Scholarship Categories and Eligibility Requirements

The Xi Sigma Omega HBCU Scholarship - \$4,500:

For students who plan to attend a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Desired applicants must be able to document an extraordinary number of service-learning hours with outstanding community service; demonstrated leadership, e.g., Student Government Association officer, class president, captain of a sports team, etc. Applicant must have and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 out of 4.0 or 4.0 out of a 5.0 scale. The HBCU scholarship is a renewable scholarship paid \$1,500 for the first year and \$1,000 for the next three years annually, provided the student meets the stated renewal criteria.

ESSAY TOPIC: 1) What can you contribute to a HBCU community? 2) What current event will affect the world in the next four years and why? (Two essays are required for this scholarship)

The Golden Soror Scholarship - \$1,500:

For students who plan to attend a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Applicant must have and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 out of 4.0 or 4.0 out of a 5.0 scale.

ESSAY TOPIC: Discuss your attraction, motivation, or significance for pursuing higher education and graduating from an HBCU institution.

The Ola Carter Berry Scholarship - \$1,500:

For students with financial need. Students may attend any college or university.

ESSAY TOPIC: College is expensive for all, why do you think you deserve this scholarship and why is college important to you? Please remember to include a description of your financial need within your essay.

The Bernadine M. Pindell Scholarship - \$1,500:

For students who plan to major in **mathematics** or **engineering** at any college or university.

ESSAY TOPIC: How will this scholarship help contribute to your plans to pursue a profession related to mathematics or engineering?

The Partica Moore-Batten Scholarship - \$1,000: For students who plan to major in **education** attending a Historically Black College or University (HBCU).

ESSAY TOPIC: Discuss the importance of education in our society.

The Mangham-Woods STEM Leadership Scholarship - \$1,000:

For students who plan to major in a **Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM)** field at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) and have demonstrated a high level of leadership during their high school years. Desired applicants must be able to document an extraordinary number of service-learning hours with outstanding community service accompanied by exemplary leadership, e.g., Student Government Association officer, class president, captain of a sports team, science club leadership, mathematics club leadership, etc. Applicant must have and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 out of 4.0 or 4.0 out of a 5.0 scale.

ESSAY TOPIC: Discuss your attraction, motivation, or significance for pursuing higher education in a STEM field and how leadership plays a vital role in your successful achievement of the STEM-related education.



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Scholarship Categories and Eligibility Requirements, continued

Delegate Pamela E. Queen Scholarship - \$2,500: This scholarship will be awarded to current Montgomery County high school seniors in District 14 who attend Blake, Sherwood, Paint Branch, or Damascus High Schools. This student must demonstrate outstanding academic accomplishments, community service and financial need. This student must also complete FAFSA by March 1st deadline. The student may matriculate at any two or four-year College or University in the State of Maryland. **CONDITIONS OF AWARD:** If awarded, the student must register with MDCAPS - Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) MDCAPS is MHEC's comprehensive financial aid system that processes State scholarship applications and allocate funds to students. To use MDCAPS, you must first create a student login profile. To get started with a profile, click this link, <https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us>. **ESSAY TOPIC:** Which community service project are you most proud of and why? Please see page 4 for criteria.

Note: All students who are awarded scholarships will be required to submit proof that they meet all requirements for the scholarship including residency, enrollment status for Fall, 2020 and GPA before scholarships are released to the college or university.



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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for your interest in our scholarship program. Please read all instructions carefully. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications are due via email no later than midnight on **Friday, January 31, 2020**. Official transcripts will only be accepted via postal mail and must be postmarked by the due date.

1. You must be a resident of Montgomery County, MD and a high school senior to apply.
2. You must submit a scholarship application checklist (page 5) indicating which scholarship(s) you are applying for or your application will not be considered.
3. You must submit the required essay(s). Topics are provided in the Scholarship categories and eligibility section (pages 2 & 3). Each essay must be a minimum of 2-full pages (typed), 12pt. Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins. **Please Note:** Students applying for the **Ola Carter Berry Scholarship** **must** also provide information describing your financial need, which should be in the form of an essay describing your financial need. Students applying for the four-year scholarship must submit two essays.
4. You must submit three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic achievements, community involvement, and character. Recommendations should be emailed as pdf documents to akaxisigmascholarships@gmail.com.
5. You must submit an **OFFICIAL** transcript (first quarter or semester of 12th grade) which should come from your school Registrar in a sealed envelope. If you receive higher grades on your transcript prior to the scheduled interview, you can resubmit your transcript for further consideration. **Please Note:** Documentation of community service hours is required for the Xi Sigma Omega HBCU scholarship and a description within your essay of financial need is required for the Ola Carter Berry Scholarship.
6. You must provide downloaded SAT or ACT scores from the CollegeBoard website www.collegeboard.org. Your SAT/ACT scores can resubmitted before the scholarship application deadline.
7. All application materials must be received by **Friday, January 31, 2020, no later than midnight EST**. All required application materials should be sent via email to AKAXiSigmaOmegaScholarships@gmail.com or mailed to: AKA Scholarship Committee; P.O. Box 3381; Gaithersburg, MD 20885-3381
8. **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for review.**
9. A complete application consists of Scholarship Application Checklist, Completed Application, Official transcript, three (3) letters of recommendation and Essay(s). Electronic letters of recommendation must include a signature and be submitted in a pdf file format.
10. Scholarship award finalists will be notified via phone or email to schedule an in-person interview with the Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee will select and interview finalists from the pool of eligible applicants. Interviews will be held **Saturday, February 29th or Sunday, March 1, 2020** at the North-Bethesda Marriott and Conference Center. **Please ensure that your contact information (cell phone number and email address) is accurate and complete.**
11. Acceptance documents should include letter of acceptance and student ID number and are due to the scholarship committee by **July 1, 2020**. Scholarship awards will be made payable directly to the school indicated by the award recipient by August 2020 if the recipient has met the July 1st deadline.
12. The scholarships will be announced publicly at our Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon on **April 4, 2020** and your attendance **will be required** at our 2nd Annual Scholarship Recognition Breakfast Ceremony on **June 6, 2020**.



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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Scholarship Application-Completely filled out with complete sentences and accurate information. All application materials must be received by **Friday, January 31, 2020, no later than midnight EST**. All required application materials should be sent via email AKAXiSigmaOmegaScholarships@gmail.com or mailed to: AKA Scholarship Committee; P.O. Box 3381; Gaithersburg, MD 20885-3381

Please indicate the scholarship(s) to which you are applying:

Xi Sigma Omega HBCU Scholarship - \$4,500

Golden Soror Scholarship - \$1,500

Ola Carter Berry Scholarship -\$1,500

Bernadine M. Pindell Scholarship - \$1,500

Partica Moore-Batten Scholarship – \$1,000

Delegate Pamela E. Queen Scholarship - \$2,500

Mangham-Woods STEM Leadership Scholarship – \$1,000

Recommendation Letters-Must provide three (3) recommendation letters from individuals familiar with your academic achievements, community involvement, and character. Recommendations should be signed emailed as pdf documents.

Transcripts-Must provide an official transcript (first quarter or semester of 12th grade) from Registrar in sealed envelope (can be mailed separately)

SAT/ACT Scores - Must be downloaded from the CollegeBoard website and submitted to the Scholarship Committee (*We do not have a College Board ID, we expect you to send us your scores.*)

Essay(s)-Each essay must be a minimum of **2-full pages (typed)**, 12pt. Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1- inch margins



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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

DEADLINE: Friday, January 31, 2020, by Midnight EST

Return to: AKA Scholarship Committee; P. O. Box 3381; Gaithersburg, MD; 20885-3381 or
akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CELL NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PARENT or GUARDIAN'S NAME/CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

SIBLINGS:

<u>NAME:</u>	<u>AGE:</u>	<u>GRADE:</u>	<u>SCHOOL:</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL: _____

Must also submit official transcripts from Registrar in sealed envelope:

GRADE POINT AVERAGE: WEIGHTED: _____ UNWEIGHTED: _____

SSL Hours Completed: _____

Must also submit SAT/ACT scores from College Board website:

SAT SCORES: Reading: _____ Math: _____ Writing: _____

ACT SCORES: English: _____ Math: _____ Reading: _____ Science: _____



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LIST ALL COLLEGES AT WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED (Please indicate which college you are planning to attend): _____

LIST HONORS, AWARDS OR SCHOLARSHIPS THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED: _____

LIST YOUR EXTRA CURRICULAR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: _____

LIST ANY OFFICES YOU HAVE HELD: _____

LIST YOUR CHURCH AND/OR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: _____



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LIST YOUR EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE (AFTER SCHOOL, SUMMER OR INTERNSHIPS): _____

LIST YOUR HOBBIES: _____

WHAT IS YOUR FUTURE PROFESSION OR INTEREST? _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

-----DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE -----

Date Received: _____

Method of Delivery: Email ___ Mail ___ Time of Email submission: _____