

Wayne Nelson Scholarship Program

Academic Year 2016-2017



Tracy African American Association (TAAA) is a non-profit organization established in 1994 by a group of concerned professionals seeking to form ties among African Americans and others in the Tracy community. Our mission is to create a cooperative environment that unites people of all ages and backgrounds through sponsorships, while promoting and contributing to educational, cultural, and social programs and activities that foster awareness, diversity, and a cooperative environment that unites the Tracy Community. Membership is open to individuals who share and embrace the TAAA mission.

As our global society continues to make technological advances, it becomes imperative that African American youth are equipped to meet the challenges of the future. That future mandates a sound education, knowledge, skills, and abilities. TAAA seeks to assist the youth of our community in their academic development by making available scholarships toward a college education.

Tracy African American Association, LLC. (TAAA) places special emphasis on youth mentorship and education, and gears nearly all of its events and activities toward fundraising to benefit its **Wayne Nelson Academic Scholarship Program**. For many years, the African American community has recognized a need for improved educational opportunities for African American youth. With a quality education, our youth can be confident, competent, and self-assured young men and women as they prepare to become future leaders of our community and world.

PURPOSE:

Annually, the organization provides scholarships—named for late TAAA member and education advocate Wayne Nelson—to enrich educational opportunities for college-bound African American students who are graduating from Tracy, CA high schools. Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who apply, meet specific academic requirements, and who are entering an accredited college or university on a full-time basis. Scholarships are awarded for a minimum of \$500.00.

Each year, scholarship applications are available in January and must be submitted no later than the fourth Saturday in April (April 22, 2017). Awards will be announced the first week of May at TAAA's General Meeting. All scholarship recipients are also expected to attend TAAA's annual Juneteenth Celebration (June 3, 2017). Scholarship recipients will be announced at their respective high school award night assemblies and are encouraged to attend the AAEA graduation in Stockton in June. Scholarships will become void if award recipient is not enrolled within one year of the immediately following academic year. (For example, you graduate May 2017, you must be enrolled in college by Fall 2018). Scholarship funds will be disbursed within 15 days after receipt of proof of enrollment (ie. Class schedule or tuition receipt on official school letterhead or from applicable school's website.)

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND EVALUATION:

The applicant must be an African American high school senior attending one of the high schools in Tracy, California who has applied and been granted acceptance into an accredited college or university of higher education.

The scholarship applicant will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Scholarship Candidates in **TIER I:**

- A. African American graduating high school senior with a cumulative grade point average of **3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale.**
- B. High school senior attending one of the local Tracy high schools.
- C. Active member of the Tracy African American Association, attending general meetings, committee meeting, and/or functions. Signature on the sign-in sheet is required confirming participation in meetings and/or functions.
- D. Submit the following:
 1. Completed application, including list of community service, extracurricular activities, honors and awards.
 2. Current high school transcript.
 3. 500-word essay on one of the topics below:
 - “Education and Volunteerism: How the Two Can Work Together for Success”
 - “Why Education is Important to Me”
 - “Common Sense and Book Sense: How the Two Can Work Together for One’s Personal Growth and Development”*Essay will be evaluated on format, content, grammar and punctuation.*
 4. Two letters of recommendations (preferably from a counselor, high school teacher, pastor, or mentor program leader).

Scholarship Candidates in **TIER II:**

- A. African American graduating high school senior with a cumulative grade point average of **2.0 to 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.**
- B. High school senior attending one of the local Tracy high schools.
- C. Active member of the Tracy African American Association, attending general meetings, committee meeting, and/or functions. Signature on the sign-in sheet is required confirming participation in meetings and/or functions.
- D. Submit the following:
 1. Completed application, including list of community service, extracurricular activities, honors and awards.
 2. Current high school transcript.
 3. 500-word typed essay on one of the topics below:
 - “Education and Volunteerism: How the Two Can Work Together for Success”
 - “Why Education is Important to Me”
 - “Common Sense and Book Sense: How the Two Can Work Together for One’s Personal Growth and Development”*Essay will be evaluated on format, content, grammar and punctuation.*
 4. Two letters of recommendations (preferably from a counselor, high school teacher, pastor, or mentor program leader).

Completed scholarship applications, along with attachments must be received (and/or postmarked) via mail to: TAAA, Attn: Wayne Nelson Scholarship, P.O. Box 62, Tracy, CA 95378 or emailed to Howard Baker, Education Chair @ imara_realty@att.net by Saturday, April 22, 2017. Late applications will NOT be accepted.



Tracy African American Association Wayne Nelson Scholarship Application

Contact information

Name	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Phone	
E-Mail Address	
High School Attending/Date of Graduation	
Career Goal	

List Name(s) of College/University you plan to attend:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Awards and Honors

--

Community Service/Volunteer

(ie. Involvement with TAAA, community events, organizations, church functions, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, elderly help)

--

List names of two individuals who will submit letters of recommendations:

- 1.
- 2.

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete.

Signature

Date:

Application DUE DATE: April 22, 2017