



SOMERSET COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BLACK CAUCUS

Rev. Dr. Clarence W. Bauknight, Jr., and Bernice Griffen Bauknight High School Scholarship Application and Instructions

Purpose

The purpose of the Somerset County Future Leaders Scholarship is to provide a scholarship award to students who will be attending college in Fall 2026, who reside in Somerset County and have shown an interest in Social Justice and have a passion for Community Service and/or Activism. This scholarship recognizes high school students of Black African descent who have made contributions to their community and engagement towards matters of their community's socio-economic health and well-being in New Jersey.

Awards

Two scholarship awards are available. Each scholarship will be valued in the amount of \$500.00 for a single year. All scholarship awards will be paid directly to the recipients.

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be a senior in a High school in Somerset County.
2. Applicants must reside in Somerset County.
3. Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in the social justice, community service and/or activism.
4. Applicants must be US citizens of Black African descent.

Somerset County Democratic Committee Black Caucus (SCDCBC) will not award scholarships to applicants who are not qualified and we reserve the right not to award a scholarship in a given year.

Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrated or expressed interest in social justice, community service and/or activism
2. Student essay
3. Letters of recommendation
4. Academic standing (*must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3, see chart below for reference*)

Letter Grade	Percent Grade	4.0 Scale
A+	97-100	4.0
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3

5. If selected, recipient or a representative must be able to attend the SCDC Black Caucus Scholarship Luncheon and SCDC Black Caucus Fundraiser on **April 11, 2026**



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Application Requirements

To be considered for a Somerset County Future Leaders Scholarship Award, applicants must complete an application and **return it to SCDCBC by January 9, 2026**. The application must include:

1. A completed application form. Only FULLY completed application forms will be considered.
2. Two (2) letters of recommendation with at least one from teacher. Be certain to remind your references to send in these forms by the application deadline in a sealed envelope.
3. An official high school transcript. See below for information on transcript submission.
4. A one-page (< 500 words) student statement highlighting why you are applying for the scholarship, your qualifications, educational and career goals. See below for information about student statement submission.

****** All four of the above items must be submitted before the application will be considered.**

Submission of Application Form & Required Materials

Online Application

The online application cannot be submitted until **all required fields** are completed including the electronic signature. Be sure to upload all required attachments (*i.e., the transcript document and student statement*) using the upload feature **before** hitting the application submit button. Submit all application material in pdf format.

PDF Application

Download the PDF application and fill it out completely. Be certain to include the other required material (*i.e., student statement and copy of official transcript*) along with your application when sending in your application via email or postal mail. See mailing information below. For the Student statement, you may use the page included in the application form or attach a separate page. For the signature, print out the completed application, sign it, and either scan it in as a PDF file to be emailed or mail in the signed application via postal mail.

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation should be sent directly from the author to the SCDCBC email address (**as PDF files**) or to the SCDCBC postal address provided below. The name of each recommendation file should include the applicant's last name as part of that file. The letter should indicate the capacity in which the letter writer knows the applicant, e.g., as a student, employee, or other capacity. Be certain to remind your references to send in these forms by the **application deadline on January 9, 2026**.

Mailing Information

If not submitting an online application, completed applications along with required material (*i.e., student statement and copy of official high school transcript*) may be sent to the following Email Address:

scdcblackcaucus@gmail.com

Alternatively, completed applications along with required material (*i.e., student statement and copy of official high school transcript*) may be mailed to:

**SCDCBC Scholarship
Program 873 Hamilton
Street Unit A# 115
Somerset, NJ
08873**

ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS DUE January 9, 2026

Questions about the application process may be directed to:

scdcblackcaucus@gmail.com



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A. General Information

Applicant First Name _____ Last Name _____

E-mail address _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Country _____ Phone Number _____

Address at School (if known) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Country _____ Phone Number _____

Country of Citizenship _____

B. Education Information

School Applicant attends _____

Department and Major _____

Department Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Country _____

Expected Graduation Date _____

Degree Expected _____

What was your grade point average last semester (A=4.0)? _____

What is your cumulative grade point average (A=4.0)? _____



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Current and Past School Activities and Honors:

Date	School Activity/Honor

Community Activities and Honors:

Optional: Hometown Newspaper – Name and Address

(This information will be used to send an announcement of the award to your local newspaper)

C. Employment Information

Please list your employment history, including dates, starting with your most recent job. Place an asterisk (*) before any company where your involvement was in the political arena.

Date	Company Name	City, State



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D. Volunteer Information

Please list your volunteer history, including dates, starting with your most recent assignment. Place an asterisk (*) before any company where your involvement was in the political arena.

Date	Company Name	City, State
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

E. Application Statement

The information provided in my application is, to the best of my knowledge, complete and accurate, and I understand that false statements on this application will disqualify me from the scholarship.

I, (please print name) _____, give permission for any school to release to the SCDCBC Scholarship Program any information necessary to process my application to the Program.

Applicant's Signature _____ (Date)

F. Summary

TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION YOU MUST:

1. Send with this completed application a one-page (< 500 words) typed statement telling why you are applying for the scholarship, your qualifications, and your educational and career goals.
2. Send, or have sent, to the SCDCBC Scholarship Program a certified transcript.
3. Have two individuals complete the Recommendation Forms for the scholarship. At least one of these individuals should be a current teacher or school official. Be certain to remind your references to send these forms by the application deadline.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: January 9, 2026

Send application materials in pdf format to scdcblackcaucus@gmail.com.

Alternatively, you can mail completed applications to:

SCDCBC Scholarship Program
873 Hamilton Street Unit A# 115
Somerset, NJ 08873



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Questions about the application process may be directed to scdcblackcaucus@gmail.com



Please describe why you are applying for the scholarship, your qualifications. Please limit your statement to less than 500 words.

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