



*Pearls of Wisdom Foundation*  
INCORPORATED

**2024**  
**Scholarship Application**

Pearls of Wisdom Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2372  
Morristown, New Jersey 07962-2372  
[www.powfoundation.com](http://www.powfoundation.com)

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, April 12, 2024**

## *About Pearls of Wisdom Foundation, Inc.*

Pearls of Wisdom Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization established in 2004 by the members of the Pi Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® to promote educational and service programs, including an annual scholarship program for eligible Black/African-American high school seniors and undergraduates currently enrolled in Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

## *About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®*

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is an international service organization founded in 1908 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by Black/African-American college educated women, and boasts more than 355,000 members across 12 countries and territories, including: United States, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Dubai, Germany, Japan, Liberia, Nigeria, South Korea, South Africa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Sorority is often hailed as the premier Greek-letter organization for Black/African-American women, and its 116-year-old mission—“Service to All Mankind”—remains at the forefront of positive change in American life. Today, AKA continues to fulfill the service imperatives of its founders through creative programs, awareness, advocacy, action and collaborative partnerships.

## *About the Pi Theta Omega Chapter*

The Pi Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® was chartered on May 31, 1986, as the first African-American Greek-letter organization in Morris County, New Jersey. More than 37 years later, Pi Theta Omega continues to offer educational and scholarship programming to students throughout the area.

## *Scholarship Eligibility & Categories*

Scholarship applications are open to all Black/African-American high school seniors accepted to and enrolling in an accredited 4-year college or university in the Fall of 2024, as well as all Black/African-American college undergraduates currently enrolled in an HBCU, who:

- reside or attend school in Morris County, New Jersey OR are/were participants in a #CAP<sup>SM</sup> or AKA GEMS & GENTS high school program sponsored by Pi Theta Omega; and,
- have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 (unless otherwise specified).

There are currently 5 scholarships, and the amount of each award varies based on the volume of qualified applicants and final scores. Students who previously received a scholarship from the Foundation are ineligible, with the exception of the Marjorie Herbert HBCU Scholarships—undergraduate students who were never awarded a Marjorie Herbert HBCU Scholarship may apply for that scholarship only.

Applicants must select one scholarship category from the following:

### **The Pearls of Wisdom Scholarships**

Pearls of Wisdom Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors seeking higher education in any field, who provide service to the community and promote education through their activities.

### **The Marjorie Herbert HBCU Scholarships**

Marjorie Herbert HBCU Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors and undergraduate students who plan to or currently attend an HBCU. These scholarships are named for Dr. Marjorie M. Herbert, who attended and graduated from Morgan State University, an HBCU in Baltimore, Maryland. During her years at Morgan State, Dr. Herbert was actively involved with her college community and with the Civil Rights Movement, both on campus and in the City of Baltimore. In 2015, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from her *alma mater*, and recognized as a student Civil Rights Pioneer. Dr. Herbert is a member of Pi Theta Omega and a dedicated Morris County community leader.

### **The Princess Anne Millard Scholarships**

Princess Anne Millard Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors who have excelled academically while actively participating in extracurricular and community service activities, and who intend to pursue undergraduate studies in education or a related social science area. These scholarships are named for Mrs. Princess Anne Millard, who attended Virginia State University (then Virginia State College) in Petersburg, Virginia. Ms. Millard Pi Theta Omega member, and has held several chapter leadership positions in the chapter and the Foundation, having served as a founding member of the Foundation's Education Committee.

### **The Mitzi Abney-Wisdom STEAM Scholarships**

Mitzi Abney-Wisdom Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors with GPAs of at least 3.0, who plan to continue their studies in science, technology, engineering, arts, or math (STEAM), and who are actively engaged in 1 or more extracurricular activities through school or the community (*e.g.*, sports teams, academic clubs, student government, visual and performing arts, mentorship organizations, etc.). These scholarships are named for Ms. Mitzi Abney-Wisdom, who graduated from Dickinson College with a dual degree in Spanish and education. Ms. Abney-Wisdom previously served as President of Pi Theta Omega, and is heavily involved in service to the Morris County community.

### **The Vera Blossom Scholarships**

Vera Blossom Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors and undergraduate HBCU students pursuing a degree in social work or other social science (*e.g.*, anthropology, economics, political science, psychology, sociology, etc.). These scholarships are named for Ms. Vera Blossom, who graduated from Benedict College in South Carolina with a degree in biology. She became involved in community service after graduating, and went on to lead many service-related organizations, including Pi Theta Omega as its President. After years as a teacher and working in corporate America, while still working full-time, Ms. Blossom earned a Master of Social Work degree Rutgers University.

Those awarded scholarships are required to attend the Foundation's annual scholarship awards ceremony in order to receive their awards. The ceremony is currently scheduled for Saturday, June 15, 2024, with final details regarding exact time and location provided to successful candidates.

## *Application Requirements*

Each application must include the following:

- Completed application form;
- Certified academic transcript (emailed/mailed directly from school);
- Recommendation form completed by high school guidance counselor or HBCU academic advisor, as applicable;
- Letter of recommendation from academic instructor/professor;
- Letter of recommendation from minister, coach/extracurricular advisor, employer, etc. (may not be a family member);
- Acceptance letter from accredited 4-year college or university (once received), or enrollment confirmation letter from HBCU registrar;
- An essay (300-500 words) reflecting on 1 of the following topics:
  - a. Who is your biggest role model, and how has that person influenced you and your ability to mentor others?
  - b. What experiences shaped your educational aspirations, and how will you use your education to make a positive impact on your community?
  - c. In what ways have you demonstrated leadership in school, and how will you use your education to empower others to pursue their goals?
  - d. What are the unique advantages of attending an HBCU and how will you leverage the experiences gained from an HBCU education to foster diversity, inclusion and empowerment within your field of study?

Complete applications may be submitted by email to [poweducation1@gmail.com](mailto:poweducation1@gmail.com), or by mail to:

Pearls of Wisdom Foundation, Inc.  
ATTN: 2024 Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 2372  
Morristown, New Jersey 07962-2372

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, April 12, 2024**

All applications must be received or postmarked, in complete form (i.e., with all required documentation), no later than 11:59PM on the deadline above. Incomplete applications and/or applications received/postmarked after that deadline will not be considered.



# Pearls of Wisdom Foundation Scholarship Application

2024

Select one:  Pearls of Wisdom  Marjorie Herbert  Princess Anne Millard  
 Mitzi Abney-Wisdom (STEAM)  Vera Blossom (HBCU)

## I. Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Academic Information

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_  not ranked

Are you a current or past participant in a Pi Theta Omega-sponsored #CAP<sup>SM</sup>  
or AKA GEMS & GENTS program?  Yes  No

*If yes, please list the program and year:* \_\_\_\_\_

List any honors and/or awards received during high school/college with corresponding dates  
(attach additional sheets if necessary):

### III. Extracurricular/Community Activities

List all extracurricular activities you participated in during high school/college, including any athletic teams, academic clubs and/or community organizations, with corresponding dates and any titles you held for each (attach additional sheets if necessary):

### IV. College Information

What is your current/intended course of study in college, and how will this scholarship award assist with your financial needs (attach additional sheets if necessary)?

(GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ONLY) List all accredited 4-year colleges and/or universities you applied to, also indicating which ones you have received acceptances from (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Have you decided which school you will attend in the Fall of 2024?  Yes  No

If so, which one? \_\_\_\_\_ HBCU?  Yes  No  
(attach copy of acceptance letter)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Pearls of Wisdom Foundation Scholarship Application

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## Guidance Counselor/Academic Advisor Recommendation Form

This form must be received or postmarked no later than 11:59PM on Friday, April 12, 2024. Completed forms may be submitted via email to [poweducation1@gmail.com](mailto:poweducation1@gmail.com), or via mail to Pearls of Wisdom Foundation, Inc., ATTN: 2024 Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 2372, Morristown, New Jersey, 07932-2372.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_  not ranked

Please evaluate the student in the following categories on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest):

Academic Performance.....	1	2	3	4	5
Intellectual Promise .....	1	2	3	4	5
Leadership.....	1	2	3	4	5
Motivation.....	1	2	3	4	5
Communication/Interpersonal Skills .....	1	2	3	4	5
Physical Presentation.....	1	2	3	4	5

Please list 3 words to describe the student:

\_\_\_\_\_

Counselor/Advisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_