**P.O. Box 020582**

**Staten Island, N.Y. 10302-0582**

**Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Dorothy I. Height Dr. Johnnetta Cole**

**Founder President Emerita Chair**

**Nicole Meyers**

**Section President**

January, 2021

Dear Bethune Award Nominator:

The Staten Island Section of the National Council of Negro Women Inc., (NCNW), is seeking applicants for the **High School Achievers Award**. We are seeking underrepresented students who are interested in forwarding the mission and legacy of NCNW. Three students will be selected for three annual, one-time awards. The total amount to be awarded will be determined in January 2021. To that end, we ask for your assistance with the nomination of students who best exemplify the legacy of our Founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, through dedication and commitment to their community, school, church, or faith-based institution.

A Nominator is defined as an adult who serves as a mentor and guide for the applicant. This person must verify that the information on the application is accurate. The Award Ceremony will take virtually at our Fifteenth Annual Harambee Celebration on April 29, 2021, virtually.

Enclosed is an application for the High School Achievers Award, the NCNW Mission, a brief biographical sketch on the life of Dr. Bethune, and a brief narrative about the overall theme of the Harambee Celebration Program. According to our guidelines all nominees should meet the following requirements:

* Must be attending a high school within the 5-boros of New York City or the state of New Jersey
* Must demonstrate community involvement by contributing to the betterment of their community and its residents.

The deadline for the receipt of completed applications is **March 19, 2021**. If you have more than one nominee, you may duplicate the application. Incomplete applications as well as those received after the deadline will not be considered. Students who are selected to receive an award will be required to submit two headshot type photos. All applications must be submitted via email to:

Selection Committee, NCNW-SI Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Awards

[NCNW.SI.AwardsScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:NCNW.SI.Awards.Scholarship@gmail.com)

Theodora M. Cross, Chair

***Harambee 2021***

**Fact Sheet**

**NCNW Mission Statement**

Our mission is to lead, develop and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities. We seek to harness the collective power of women of African descent, so that they may realize their full potential. We seek to create a just society in which the quality of life is enhanced for all people. We fulfill our mission through research, advocacy and national and community-based health, education and economic empowerment services and programs in the United States and Africa. Through section and affiliate volunteers in 31 states, NCNW addresses local needs while impacting communities nationwide.

Source:<http://www.ncnw.org/about/>

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**Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune**

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune founded the National Council of Negro Women in 1935. She was also the original source for the philosophy embodied in the saying, “Leave No Child Behind”. Born of slave parents in South Carolina on July 10, 1875, she attended Presbyterian Mission School, Mayersville, S.C., Scotia Seminary, Concord, N.C. and Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, IL. Consumed with the desire to help others, she set about finding a place to teach with only $1.50 in her pocket. Through prayer, determination and unbounded faith, she was able to open a small school with only five girls as students. Today this school has grown into the thriving institution known as the Bethune-Cookman College. Her other great accomplishment was organizing The National Council of Negro Women. She became the Council’s first President, a position she held for 14-years. Although her passing on May 18, 1955 was untimely, her works and her rare spirit enrich her enduring legacy.

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**Harambee!**

Harambee is a Kenyan tradition of community self-help events, e.g., fundraising or community development activities. Harambee is also the official motto of Kenya. Harambee literally means “pulling together” in Swahili, and may range from informational affairs lasting a few hours in which invitations are spread by word of mouth, to formal, multi-day events advertised in newspapers.

*Following Kenya’s independence in 1963, the first Prime Minister and later the first President of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta, adopted ‘Harambee’ as a concept of pulling together to build a new nation.*

*Harambee is also a popular Kenyan song by Fashili William.*

Please join us for a virtual **Awards Information Workshop** on **Thursday, 2/25/21, 4-5:30 PM**

RSVP for the Workshop to [NCNW.SI.AwardsScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:NCNW.SI.Awards.Scholarship@gmail.com)

**Eligibility Requirements**

In order to be eligible for the High School Achievers Award, applicants must complete the attached application and prepare a 500-word, typed essay that must include:

1. A discussion about the description of the concern identified in the topic that you have selected.

2. What resources within your school or community would you utilize to address the concern related to the topic you have selected?

3. How would you organize the people in your school and/or community in order to accomplish your goal(s)?

4. Be specific, and be sure to address each of these areas in your essay!

Based on the quality, rigor, and thoughtfulness of the essay submissions, the Awards Selection Committee will determine which students receive an award.

Candidates selected must participate in a virtual *Awardee Meet & Greet on Thursday, 3/25/21* and virtual *Harambee Celebration on April 29, 2021* at which time the awards are to be announced.

**Selected Topics for**

**High School Achievers Award Applicants**

You have been selected to be the class president for your senior high school class. You have been asked to address your peers and discuss one of the following topics. Please submit a 500-word, typed essay that reflects your best writing about **ONE** of the following topics:

* National Council of Negro Women was founded in 1935, by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. NCNW's mission is to lead, develop, advocate, and empower women of African descent. How are you actualizing the mission of NCNW in 'your' daily life?

* What strategies would you adapt to create and move toward a more culturally inclusive environment within your school and/or community? How do you envision that the strategies you have identified will serve to raise the awareness of others within our increasingly multicultural communities, about the need to be accepting of others’ ethnic and cultural beliefs and to live in harmony?

* Why is it important to pursue higher education? How do you envision obtaining a college degree will impact your life, that of your family, and that of your community later in life?

* Do you feel it is important to be involved in a drug awareness/prevention program in your school or community? Discuss ways in which drugs have impacted your community.

**Deadline for submission of all supporting material to**

[NCNW.SI.AwardsScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:NCNW.SI.AwardsScholarship@gmail.com) **is March 19, 2021**

**High School Achievers Award Application**

**(Part 1)**

**Applicant Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Age\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Telephone (Home/Cell) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**School Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Principal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Academic Average / GPA \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Community Organization Affiliation:**

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Telephone (Home/Cell) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator:**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (Home/Cell) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant (Name)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_has known nominator for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_years.

Colleges to which you have applied \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Colleges to which you have been accepted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated major once enrolled \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**High School Achievers Award Application**

**(Part 2)**

Applicant’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please list all Honors and Awards that you have received and attach copies.
2. Please list/discuss all hobbies and extra-curricular activities that you have been involved with and are currently active in.
3. Please list/discuss community and /or volunteer activities that you have been involved with and are currently involved in.

**High School Achievers Award Application**

**(Part 2 - Continued)**

Applicant’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

IV. Please discuss your college and/or career goals.

**Selected ONE Topic for**

**High School Achievers Award Applicants**

* National Council of Negro Women was founded in 1935, by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. NCNW's mission is to lead, develop, advocate, and empower women of African descent. How are you actualizing the mission of NCNW in 'your' daily life?

* What strategies would you adapt to create and move toward a more culturally inclusive environment within your school and/or community? How do you envision that the strategies you have identified will serve to raise the awareness of others within our increasingly multicultural communities, about the need to be accepting of others’ ethnic and cultural beliefs and to live in harmony?

* Why is it important to pursue higher education? How do you envision obtaining a college degree will impact your life, that of your family, and that of your community later in life?

* Do you feel it is important to be involved in a drug awareness/prevention program in your school or community? Discuss ways in which drugs have impacted your community.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\*Authentic signatures or Electronic signatures are required**

**Statement of Nominator**

**High School Achievers Award Application**

**(Part 3)**

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

Nominator’ Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please write a statement indicating why this young applicant should receive this award and how he or she forwards the mission of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and exemplifies the legacy of NCNW’s Founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune.

The deadline for submission of your statement of recommendation is **March 19, 2021**. Please insert the Applicant’s name in the subject line and email it to [NCNW.SI.AwardsScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:NCNW.SI.AwardsScholarship@gmail.com)

Nominator’ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Upon Completion of a Review by the Committee, Applicants will be Notified