

Doherty & Donelon Scholarships awarded

Six children of NALC members to receive funding for college

In recognition of their academic achievements and community involvement, six children of NALC members will receive NALC memorial scholarships.

One student from each of the five geographical regions was awarded \$4,000 from the William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund, and a sixth student will receive \$1,000 from the John T. Donelon Scholarship. All six scholarships are renewable for three additional years.

The Doherty scholarship was founded in 1962 to honor William Doherty, NALC's president from 1941 to 1962. The winners for 2021 are:

Eastern Region: Victoria Onajobi

Parent: Oluseyi Onajobi
Hyattsville, MD Branch 142

Quote: "I will become part of the 5 percent of black women who hold managerial positions in engineering. I will use my position to show all the young black women what it means to persevere through circumstances designed against them. I hope by investing in myself and my education, I can invest in the future of these young black women. I hope to create affordable personalized tutoring programs and mentorships for young black women, first at my high school, then hopefully on a larger scale. Through the mentorships, I hope to provide resources, such as engineering-based internships, which would allow for opportunities to discover their future."

Northeast Region: Alan Gansky

Parent: Erik Gansky
New York, NY Branch 6000

Quote: "If I could do what I most wanted to do in 15 to 25 years, I would travel the world. Traveling opens the mind to new experiences. You are able to experience and interact with

new people and customs. It allows you to disconnect from your daily life, the stress of work and social media. 'Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do.' Mark Twain describes my urge to travel the world the best. I would love to create lifetime memories, one country at a time."

Southern Region: Jackson Thomas Gentry

Parent: James Gentry
Rock Hill, SC Branch 1003

Quote: "My mother has been the most influential person in my life. She was severely sick as far as I can remember, but she still cared for me and loved me with all her strength until she passed away in January of 2019. As I grew up, I also helped her and cared for her and we shared an incredible bond. ... However, seeing her suffer and struggle with chronic illness has fueled my passion for helping others and studying harder in the science of biology in order to help me achieve my mission in life. My mother instilled in me faith, compassion, determination, and a strong and dedicated work ethic, which has served me well in my education and in life."

Central Region: Andrew Momsen

Parent: Eric Momsen
Oshkosh, WI Branch 173

Quote: "My dad has always believed in me and supported me. He has always encouraged me to do my best. ... He has gone with me on every camping outing with [the] Boy Scouts. He even sleeps on the ground in a tent and gets up extra early to get to the post office. Whenever I feel like anything is too much work to accomplish, I think of my dad. He gets up five to six days a week to deliver mail. He walks 13-16

miles a day, often six days a week. He works harder than an Olympic athlete, never having an 'off season' to rest. ... He is always heading to work with a cheerful attitude, even when his body is sore and tired. I think to myself, if my dad can work that hard at something for more than 28 years, I can work hard at any goal I set for myself."

Western Region: Jordan Dervishian
Parent: James Dervishian
Billings, MT Branch 815

Quote: "Unions are groups of organized workers that fight for workers' rights, benefits and wages, which brings social and economic justice to the working class. Union jobs pay more than non-union jobs. I would definitely join a union because it would protect my rights, benefits and wage. Both of my parents are in unions, with my father in one for almost 40 years, and two generations before them [were] both in unions. My family is very pro-union."

A scholarship honoring the late John T. Donelon, longtime assistant to three NALC national presidents, was announced in 2003. Donelon's wife, Louise, established the Donelon Scholarship as a bequest in her will.

The winner is: Amariah Gustamante
Parent: Margaret Garza
San Antonio, TX Branch 421

Quote: "My freshman year of high school, I joined the Army JROTC offered through Harlandale High School. From volunteering with retired veterans to leading cadences, I built up the confidence and self-reliance needed to apply myself to other extracurriculars offered [at my high school]. ... Furthermore, the sense of self-reliance I gained allowed me to succeed in demanding courses from Harlandale

Doherty & Donelon Scholarships (continued)

High School by advocating for myself when I struggled to grasp a topic. JROTC provided me the foundation I needed in order to challenge myself, both academically and extracurricularly, and seek help when needed.”

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the NALC Scholarship Committee—composed of Chairwoman Sandy Laemmel, Detroit, Michigan Branch 1; Kimetra Lewis, Dallas, Texas Branch 132; and Lawrence Kania, Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3—continued using the remote communication tools that had allowed them to safely fulfill their roles during the 2020 selection process. However, the evolving nature of the pandemic did cause a delayed timeline for the 2021 selection process.

“Normally, we would have made our decision in mid-March [of 2021],” Laemmel said. “However, because everything was pushed back, we did not begin until July. We did work virtually through October, but everything was delayed six months because of the pandemic.”

The Scholarship Committee reviewed each application independently and then sent them by region to the next committee member for review. As with the 2020 application process, the Scholarship Committee used the Postal Service to ship applications between committee members and to send their evaluations to NALC Headquarters.

The applications were then sent to judges with educational backgrounds for the final round of evaluation. The judges for 2021 were Dr. Georgia Booker, retired director, Office of Guidance Counseling Services for District of Columbia Public Schools; James B. Massey Jr., director, Office of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Maryland; and Dale E. Bittinger, as-



The committee and judges in 2019: (standing, from l) Lawrence Kania, Kimetra Lewis, Sandy Laemmel and NALC President Fredric Rolando, (seated) Dale E. Bittinger, Dr. Georgia Booker and James B. Massey Jr.

sistant vice provost for Undergraduate Admissions, Orientation and School Partnerships at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

“I met with the judges on Dec. 13 to go over the applications from each region, their selections and their reasoning for why they made the selection,” Laemmel said.

The Committee reviewed and evaluated the applications for the scholarships and discussed problems and potential problems with the program, along with possible solutions.

The committee issued the following report:

“This is the 59th anniversary of the founding of the William C. Doherty Scholarship program and the 18th anniversary of the John T. Donelon Scholarship.

For purposes of this scholarship program, the country is divided into five geographic regions. Under the procedure, eliminations were made to

reach the allowed figure of five scholarships—one to each of the five regions. At present, each Doherty scholarship is valued at \$16,000, which represents \$4,000 annually, for four consecutive years. The John T. Donelon scholarship provides for one scholarship of \$1,000 annually, for four consecutive years.

Since the beginning, our program has aided hundreds children of letter carriers in their pursuit of higher education. We strongly urge the parents of high school seniors to watch the July through December 2022 issues of *The Postal Record* for 2022 scholarship applications, which will be printed only in those issues. They are also available on the NALC website, nalc.org.

It is essential that applications be complete and all submissions made timely. The Committee emphasizes the necessity of answering all questions on the required forms and providing all the information requested prior to the dead-line date. We would like to stress the importance of applicants’ demon-

strating diversity in extracurricular activities, sports, leadership, elective office and work experience, as well as scholastic excellence. Applicants are rated on all of the above areas.

The committee appreciates the co-operation of the various branches and state associations and encourages them to continue to publicize the scholarship program. We appreciate the contributions from our members who generously support the scholarship program. The value of a college education to our upcoming young men and women is incalculable. With the continuing increase in the cost of college, we urge each of our members to make a contribution to the Doherty Scholarship fund. Any contribution will help to keep this worthy program

as strong and effective as we can make it. (The Donelon Scholarship is funded by a separate trust fund.)

The participation of President Fredric Rolando, Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine, and other resident officers and staff was an invaluable contribution to this committee's work.

Our thanks to this year's judges—Dr. Georgia Booker, retired director, Office of Guidance Counseling Services, District of Columbia Public Schools; James B. Massey Jr., director, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, University of Maryland; and Dale E. Bittinger, assistant vice provost for undergraduate admissions, Orientation and School Partnerships at University of Maryland, Baltimore County—who assisted in performing

the assessment of applicants and making the final selections. We wish to express our deepest appreciation to these very outstanding educators for their assistance to the NALC Scholarship Committee and the NALC.

As it has for the past decade, the committee accepted ACT test scores along with SAT scores. The scholarship committee used information provided by Dr. Jeff Schiel of the Statistical Research Department, Research Division, ACT Regional Office, to correlate the ACT and SAT scores to provide a fair evaluation for the scholarship selections.

We sincerely express our appreciation for this opportunity to serve the NALC membership in administering this program.” **PR**

President Rolando appoints two RAAs

President Rolando has appointed two new regional administrative assistants (RAAs).

Larrissa Parde is a new RAA for Region 5 (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas). She fills a vacancy left by David Teegarden of Kansas City, MO Branch 30, who became the national business agent (NBA) for the region last month.



Larrissa Parde

Parde began her letter carrier career in 1999 and joined Lincoln, NE Branch 8. She served her branch in several roles, including steward and OWCP repre-

sentative, and then was elected branch vice president in 2011. In 2013, Parde became branch president, a position she held until Rolando appointed her a regional workers compensation assistant (RWCA) in 2018.

Parde also served as director of education for the Nebraska State Association and, from 2015 to 2018, as state association president. She graduated from Leadership Academy in 2011.

President Rolando appointed **Ronnie Roush** of Carmel, IN Branch 888 as an RAA for Kentucky-Indiana-Michigan Region 6. He stepped in to fill the vacancy created when Rolando appointed Louisville, KY Branch 14 member David Mudd as Region 6 NBA last month.

After working briefly as a rural carrier in the Cincinnati, OH, area, Roush took a job as a city carrier in Carmel in 2007. He has served his branch in

several roles, including route adjustment team member, Food Drive and Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) coordinator, Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) coordinator and branch secretary. He was elected president of his branch in 2015. Roush also has served as an arbitration advocate, full-time backup Step B team member, letter carrier congressional liaison (LCCL) and Indiana State Association executive board member.



Ronnie Roush

Roush graduated from Leadership Academy in 2016. **PR**