



## Class of 2020 HBCU Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Birmingham (AL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

### **Graduating Seniors Apply**

**Awards: up to \$1500**

**Essay Deadline: March 1**

**“51.8 % of students at colleges in Alabama graduate in six years.”**

*2019 Business Insider/Andy Kiersz, data from US Department of Education*

#### **Purpose**

In an effort to assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) improve graduation rates, students at **Lawson State Community College, Miles College and Stillman College** are invited to apply to our Class of 2020 HBCU Essay Contest. This scholarship opportunity is designed for hopeful graduating seniors who are in jeopardy of not receiving their undergraduate degrees due to having a financial hold or outstanding balance owed to the college during the Spring 2020 semester.

#### **Eligibility**

- Currently enrolled as a graduating senior at Lawson State Community College, Miles College or Stillman College.
- Will have completed all required course work/academic credit hours leading to a degree by the end of the Spring 2020 semester.
- Has a current outstanding financial balance owed to their college as of March 1.

#### **Essay Topic**

***Write about a defining moment in the last four years that shifted or greatly impacted your thinking and maturity as a college student and how do you plan to use this experience to improve the lives of others?***

#### **Instructions**

- Applicant must write an original 500 – 750 word essay on the essay topic provided.
- Applicant is required to submit a one-page resume.
- Email essay to [nharris4@ua.edu](mailto:nharris4@ua.edu) by Sunday, March 1 before 11:59 PM, CST.

#### **Rules**

- Finalists are required to participate in a 15 - 30 minute virtual or phone interview with essay committee or representing member on Saturday, March 7 or Sunday, March 8.
- No handwritten or scanned entries will be accepted.
- No entries will be returned to applicant.
- Winners agree to have their names and/or photos published as a contest participant.

**Essay Deadline: March 1**

**Winners Notified: March 15**

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Dr. Nikita Harris at [nharris4@ua.edu](mailto:nharris4@ua.edu)