



Academically Competitive. Civically Inclined. Financially Equipped.

April L. Simmons STEM Scholarship for Girls

The **April L. Simmons STEM Scholarship for Girls** was created as a result of a critical need to increase the involvement of African-American girls in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). As noted on www.scientistafoundation.com, "While the 10.7% figure for Bachelor's degree and 13% for Master's is encouraging, the percentages obscure some fields (such as mathematics), where African American female degree attainment is 800% less than degree-attainment levels for white females!" According to the National Science Foundation (NSF), African American women and girls comprise a little more than 6% (N=19,730,247) of the total U.S. population, 14% (N=861,642) of female students enrolled at four-year institutions, and 10.4% (N=19,160) of female graduate enrollment in STEM fields.

Although this data has improved in the last few years, it is imperative that we continue to serve as an outreach apparatus, aimed at providing financial assistance to black girls, as they are highly under-represented in the STEM workplace. Through the April L. Simmons Scholarship for Girls, promising young women of African descent can realize their dreams in pursuing a college degree. The foundation includes raising funds to provide scholarships to female students at Florida A&M University (FAMU) and female adolescents in the Miami-Dade, Broward or West Palm Beach County Public High Schools, with the interest of attending FAMU.

Qualifiers

High School senior: The April L. Simmons Scholarship for Girls renders \$500-\$1,000 scholarships to promising female adolescents of African descent, who are: 1) Academically successful high school seniors, aspiring to achieve a degree in one of the STEM majors at Florida A&M University. The graduating senior will be a student at one of the Miami Dade, Broward, or West Palm Beach Public High Schools. The student must have an overall un-weighted grade point average of 3.0 or above. Must be of African descent. You must provide a copy of your high school transcript, and an official acceptance letter from Florida A&M University indicating admittance and major. The applicant must submit an essay with the application. An essay topic is listed on the application below.

*The scholarship is conditional upon the promising seniors' first semester grades at Florida A&M University, which recipients are required to maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average, and provide documentation of her second semester enrollment. Upon receipt of the scholarship recipients' first semester grades, the students are awarded the scholarship during the spring semester.

College student: A female college freshman, sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student from Florida A&M University pursuing an undergraduate and/or graduate STEM degree (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). You must be of African descent. Must have an overall grade point average of 2.8 or above. You must provide a copy of your official college transcript from FAMU indicating grade point average, classification, and major. An essay is required.

About April L. Simmons

A native of Miami, FL and 2004 Industrial Engineer graduate of the illustrious Florida A&M University, April began her engineering pursuit as an intern with Johnson & Johnson within the INROAD scholars program. Prior to graduation, she was recruited and accepted a position with Pepsi Co., where she moved to Indianapolis, IN. Since 2005, she has held several positions with Pepsi Co.: Production Supervisor, Indianapolis, IN; Production Manager, Kissimmee, FL; Plant Director, Nashville, TN; and now in her current role, Sr. Director Sales Support in Columbia, MD. But her influence goes beyond the walls of Pepsi Co. In 2005, she began her philanthropic efforts by becoming a generous donor; significantly contributing to the programmatic and scholarship efforts of Scholars Today, Leaders of Tomorrow, Inc. In her own right, April is a pioneer, representing many young African-American women aspiring to one day become an engineer, research scientist, computer programmer, and mathematician, to name a few. April has many leadership & professional affiliations, but one of her greatest accomplishments is being the wife to Jason Simmons (a fellow Engineer) and mother to Riley and Avery (her daughters).

About Scholars Today, Leaders of Tomorrow

Scholars Today, Leaders of Tomorrow (STLT) was founded by Dr. Cassandra Arnold, a proud 2004 Business Administration graduate from Florida A&M University. In 2005, she started Essence of a Haitian Woman Scholarship Foundation (EHW), a 501c3 non-profit and scholarship foundation, as a way to give back to FAMU, an institution that gave her so much in return. It was a vehicle to increase the number of young Haitian women pursuing a business degree at FAMU, by providing them with a scholarship. A couple of years later, EHW became Scholars Today, Leaders of Tomorrow, with a broader mission to educate, empower and equip teenagers and young adults with the skills to excel in the areas of academics, financial literacy, professional and career development, and community service. Housed under STLT, is the Thinking Ahead College Preparatory Program, Essence of a Haitian Women Scholarship Foundation, April L. Simmons STEM Scholarship for Girls and the Latitude Experience Scholars.

Florida A&M University (FAMU)

Ranked as a top-tier academic institution and #1 Public HBCU for consecutive years, FAMU's academic achievements are what set it apart as a unique learning experience. In 2014, FAMU was recognized among the 2014 U.S. News & World Report's "Best National Universities." The U.S. News & World Report lists FAMU as the top public historically black college or university in the nation for 2015. It is also listed among The Princeton Review's "Best in the Southeast" colleges and is one of the top picks for providing a high-quality education at an affordable price in Florida, according to The College Database (2013).

FAMU produces more African-American graduates than any institution. Because of FAMU's high caliber STEM programs and rigorous training, FAMU serves as a satellite for rendering scholarships to academically astute young women.

FAMU values diversity in thought, perspective, and culture. The University enrolls nearly 10,000 students hailing from across the United States and more than 70 countries, including several African countries, the Bahamas, Brazil, Indonesia, China, and the United Arab Emirates, to name a few. The student body includes representatives from all ethnic, socio-economic, and religious backgrounds. Students seeking a challenging academic foundation will find a variety of programs to meet their career objectives at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. The University offers 54 bachelor's degrees, 29 master's degrees, three professional degrees, and 12 doctoral programs in a wide range of academic areas.

Application

Essay Question: (1-page essay, single-spaced, & typed)

What woman of color in the STEM field has most influenced your life either personally or professionally? (This woman does not have to be a world/national renowned figure as this can be a teacher, relative, parent, etc.). How and why has she most influenced you?

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #'s: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Social Security # ___ ___ - ___ - _____

Email Address: _____

Place an "X" on one of the following:

_____ High School Senior

_____ College Student

If a college student, please place an "X" on your classification:

___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Graduate Student

GPA (Grade Point Average): _____ Intended /Current College Major: _____

Club Affiliation and Organization Membership (Extra-Curricular Activities):

Hobbies and Talents:

Honors/Awards:

Checklist for applicants

- ✓ Completed Application
- ✓ Essay
- ✓ Official College Transcript
- ✓ Official acceptance letter from Florida A&M University indicating admittance and major **(High school senior only)**
- ✓ Application must be mailed and postmarked by April 6, 2020.

Any questions, email Dr. Cassandra Arnold at c_theramene@yahoo.com

Mailed you packet to:

Scholars Today, Leaders of Tomorrow Inc.
C/o Cassandra Arnold
13136 West Dixie Hwy
Miami, FL 33161