

November 1, 2020

Dear Students,

The Xi Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated® in collaboration with the Pearls of Hope Community Foundation, Incorporated (POHCF), is pleased to announce the 2021 Scholarship Program! This exciting scholarship program offers scholarships ranging from \$500 - \$4,500 over various years.

In our 37 years of existence as a Chapter, Xi Sigma Omega has awarded more than \$229,000 in scholarships! In these times of economic need, we are proud to continue our tradition of making a difference in Upper Montgomery County, Maryland. To be eligible for these scholarships, you must be a Montgomery County high school senior and reside in Montgomery County, MD. Immediate and extended family members of Xi Sigma Omega Chapter are not eligible to apply. This includes step/bonus children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and other relatives that may or may not live in the immediate household.

We are currently seeking students to apply for a variety of scholarships that are named in the memory of many of our beloved sorority members. The attached package contains all the details you need in order to apply. Please make certain that you submit **a complete scholarship application package. We have attached a checklist to assist you with ensuring you have a complete checklist.** Incomplete packages will **not** be considered. Please read all information carefully and follow all instructions. The scholarship deadline is **Friday, January 29, 2021; no later than midnight EST.**

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Khadija F. Barkley at [akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com) or 202-422-4327, if you have any questions. Thank you for your interest, and we wish you the best in the final months of your high school career. We hope you consider applying for our scholarships!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Arla J. Bentley*

Dr. Arla J. Bentley  
President  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®  
Xi Sigma Omega Chapter

*Khadija F. Barkley*

Khadija F. Barkley,  
Scholarship Chairperson  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®  
Xi Sigma Omega Chapter

*Charlene Jackson Matthews*

Charlene Jackson Matthews, President  
Pearls of Hope Community Foundation, Incorporated

# Scholarship Categories and Eligibility Requirements

## The Xi Sigma Omega HBCU Scholarship - \$4,500:

For students who plan to attend a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Desired applicants must be able to document an extraordinary number of service-learning hours with outstanding community service; demonstrated leadership, e.g., Student Government Association officer, class president, captain of a sports team, etc. Applicants must have and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 out of 4.0 or 4.0 out of a 5.0 scale. The HBCU scholarship is a renewable scholarship paid \$1,500 for the first year and \$1,000 for the next three years annually, provided the student meets the stated renewal criteria.

**ESSAY TOPIC:** 1) What can you contribute to a HBCU community? 2) What current event will affect the world in the next four years and why? (Two essays are required for this scholarship)

## The Golden Soror Scholarship - \$1,500:

For students who plan to attend a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Applicants must have and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 out of 4.0 or 4.0 out of a 5.0 scale.

**ESSAY TOPIC:** Discuss your attraction, motivation, or significance for pursuing higher education and graduating from a Historically Black College or University (HBCU).

## The Ola Carter Berry Scholarship - \$1,500:

**For students with financial need.** Students may attend any college or university.

**ESSAY TOPIC:** College is expensive for all, why do you think you deserve this scholarship and why is college important to you? Please remember to include a description of your financial need within your essay.

## The Bernadine M. Pindell Scholarship - \$1,500:

For students who plan to major in **mathematics** or **engineering** at any college or university.

**ESSAY TOPIC:** How will this scholarship help contribute to your plans to pursue a profession related to mathematics or engineering?

## The Partica Moore-Batten Scholarship - \$1,500:

For students who plan to major in **education** attending a Historically Black College or University (HBCU).

**ESSAY TOPIC:** Discuss the importance of education in our society.

## Scholarship Categories and Eligibility Requirements, continued

### The Mangham-Woods STEM Leadership Scholarship - \$1,000:

For students who plan to major in a **Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM)** field at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) and have demonstrated a high level of leadership during their high school years. Desired applicants must be able to document an extraordinary number of service-learning hours with outstanding community service accompanied by exemplary leadership, e.g., Student Government Association officer, class president, captain of a sports team, science club leadership, mathematics club leadership, etc. Applicants must have and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 out of 4.0 or 4.0 out of a 5.0 scale.

**ESSAY TOPIC:** Discuss your attraction, motivation, or significance for pursuing higher education in a STEM field and how leadership plays a vital role in your successful achievement of STEM-related education.

### Maryland State Delegate Pamela E. Queen Scholarship - \$1,000:

This scholarship will be awarded to current Montgomery County high school seniors who **reside** in District 14 and attend Blake, Sherwood, Paint Branch, or Damascus High Schools. Students must confirm their district of residence before completing the application. This student must demonstrate outstanding academic accomplishments, community service and financial need. This student must also complete FAFSA by the March 1st deadline. The student may matriculate at any two or four-year College or University in the State of Maryland. **CONDITIONS OF AWARD:** If awarded, the student must register with MDCAPS - Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) MDCAPS is MHEC's comprehensive financial aid system that processes State scholarship applications and allocates funds to students. To use MDCAPS, you must first create a student login profile. To get started with a profile, click this link, <https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us>.

**ESSAY TOPIC:** Which community service project are you most proud of and why? Please see page 4 for criteria.

*Note: All students who are awarded scholarships will be required to submit proof that they meet all requirements for the scholarship including residency, enrollment status for Fall, 2021 and GPA before scholarships are released to the college or university.*

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for your interest in our scholarship program. Please read all instructions carefully. Incomplete applications will **not** be considered. Applications are due via email [akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com) no later than midnight EST on **Friday, January 29, 2021**. Official transcripts will only be accepted via postal mail and must be **received** by **Friday, January 29, 2021**.

1. You must be a resident of Montgomery County, MD and a Montgomery County high school senior to apply.
2. You **must** submit a scholarship application checklist (page 5) indicating which scholarship(s) you are applying for or your application will **not** be considered.
3. You must submit the required essay(s). Topics are provided in the Scholarship categories and eligibility section (pages 2 & 3). Each essay must be a minimum of 2-full pages (typed), 12pt. Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins. **Please Note:** Students applying for the **Ola Carter Berry Scholarship** must also provide information describing your financial need, which should be in the form of an essay describing your financial need. Students applying for the four-year scholarship must submit two essays.
4. You must submit three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic achievements, community involvement, and character. Recommendations should be uploaded into the application google doc or emailed as pdf documents to [akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com).
5. You must submit an **OFFICIAL** transcript (first quarter or semester of 12<sup>th</sup> grade) which should come from your school Registrar in a sealed envelope received by application deadline. If you receive higher grades on your transcript prior to the scheduled interview, you can resubmit your transcript for further consideration. **Please Note:** Documentation of community service hours is required for the Xi Sigma Omega HBCU scholarship and a description within your essay of financial need is required for the Ola Carter Berry Scholarship.
6. You must provide downloaded SAT or ACT scores from the CollegeBoard website [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). We do not have a code with CollegeBoard, so you will need to download your scores for submission with your completed application. Your SAT/ACT scores can be resubmitted before the scholarship application deadline if you have an updated score..
7. All application materials must be received by **Friday, January 29, 2021, no later than midnight EST**. All required application materials should be sent via email to [akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com) or mailed to: AKA Scholarship Committee; P.O. Box 3381; Gaithersburg, MD 20885-3381
8. **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for review.**
9. A complete application consists of Scholarship Application Checklist, Completed Application, Official transcript, three (3) letters of recommendation and Essay(s). Electronic letters of recommendation must include a signature and be submitted in a pdf file format to [akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com).
10. Scholarship award finalists will be notified via phone or email to schedule an in-person interview with the Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee will select and interview finalists from the pool of eligible applicants. Interviews will be held **Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021** at a location to be determined. **Please ensure that your contact information (cell phone number and email address) is accurate and complete.**
11. Acceptance documents should include letter of acceptance and student ID number and are due to the scholarship committee by **July 1, 2021**. Scholarship awards will be made payable directly to the school indicated by the award recipient by August 2021 if the recipient has met the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
12. The scholarships will be announced publicly on the Xi Sigma Omega social media accounts and will be shared with high school senior awards committees.

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

**Scholarship Application**-Completely filled out with complete sentences and accurate information. All application materials must be received by **Friday, January 29, 2021, no later than midnight EST**. All required application materials should be sent via email [akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:akaxisigmaomegascholarships@gmail.com)  
Transcripts ONLY should be mailed to: AKA Scholarship Committee; P.O. Box 3381; Gaithersburg, MD 20885-3381

**Please indicate the scholarship(s) to which you are applying:**

- Xi Sigma Omega HBCU Scholarship - \$4,500**
  - Golden Soror Scholarship - \$1,500**
  - Ola Carter Berry Scholarship -\$1,500**
  - Bernadine M. Pindell Scholarship - \$1,500**
  - Partica Moore-Batten Scholarship – \$1,500**
  - Maryland State Delegate Pamela E. Queen Scholarship - \$1,000**
  - Mangham-Woods STEM Leadership Scholarship – \$1,000**
- Recommendation Letters - Must provide three (3) recommendation letters from individuals familiar with your academic achievements, community involvement, and character. Recommendations should be signed and emailed as pdf documents.**
- Official Transcripts - Must provide an official transcript (first quarter or semester of 12th grade) from Registrar in sealed envelope (should be mailed separately)**
- SAT/ACT Scores - Must be downloaded from the CollegeBoard website and submitted to the Scholarship Committee (*We do not have a College Board ID, we expect you to upload your scores.*)**
- Essay(s)**-Each essay must be a minimum of **2-full pages (typed)**, 12pt. Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1- inch margins

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

**To be completed through the google form link below:**

**<https://forms.gle/633x1dCgCqqFkGw59>**

**DEADLINE:, Friday, January 29, 2021, by Midnight EST**