



Thursdays Network
Greater Washington Urban League

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

**I EMPOWER Scholarship Fund
Application & Instructions
2009**



INTRODUCTION

Thursdays Network is the young professionals' auxiliary of Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL) and the Washington, DC metro area chapter of the National Urban League Young Professionals. The mission of Thursdays Network is to provide a forum for young adults, ages 21 - 40, to focus their energies on community service, civic engagement and fostering professional development. Through the leadership of the Community Service Committee, Thursdays Network has developed several outreach efforts, including a mentoring-tutoring program called the I EMPOWER Education Enhancement Program and Young Blacks Give Back (YBGB) Month.

As part of its commitment to the Washington, DC community, Thursdays Network developed a scholarship program to help high school students pursue a college education. Since 1992, the Thursdays Network I EMPOWER Scholarship Fund has provided more than \$130,000 in college funds to high school seniors in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Students use the award to fund their freshman year at any accredited college or university in the United States.

For the 2009-2010 school year, all scholarship disbursements are to be used for tuition and will be delivered directly to the bursars/accounts office of the student's school for the fall or spring term of their freshman year.

Congratulations to the 2008 I EMPOWER Scholarship Recipients!

Thais Francis

Charles H. Flowers High School, Springdale, MD
New York University

Fatmata Koroma

Charles H. Flowers High School, Springdale, MD
University of Pittsburgh

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be eligible to receive a Thursday Network I EMPOWER Scholarship, one must:

Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0;

Plan to attend a four-year college or university in the fall of 2009;

Be a permanent resident and/or attend high school in the District of Columbia, Prince George's County (MD) or Montgomery County (MD); and

Complete and postmark all application materials no later than January 31, 2009.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Your application will not be considered complete unless it includes each of the following documents and is *postmarked by January 31, 2009*.

- Complete Application
- Proof of Financial Need
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- Copy of Official SAT or ACT Scores (if not provided on transcript)
- Official Transcript(s)

**APPLICATIONS THAT ARE NOT COMPLETED
AND POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 31, 2009
WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.**



APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

In order to be considered complete, your application must include all supporting documents. All required materials must be submitted in one packet/ mailing. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Complete all sections of the application as instructed. You are responsible for making sure that all supporting materials are postmarked **no later than January 31, 2009.**

While you may type or hand-write your responses on the application form, **please type your response to the essay question on a separate sheet.**

Please make that sure your responses are legible.

Be sure to write your last name at the bottom of **each** page of the application.

Do not staple any portion of your application or additional sheets.

Please submit all materials to:
GWUL-Thursday Network
ATTN: Rita Lassiter
2901 14th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20009

Due to the large number of applicants, we will not be able to consider applications that are postmarked after **January 31, 2009.** There will be **no exceptions** made. If you wish to contact us about the application process, you may do so by sending an e-mail to scholarship@thursdaynetwork.org.

Every completed application we receive is thoroughly reviewed by at least three members of the Scholarship Review Committee. Given the volume of applications we receive each year, and our commitment to giving each application our utmost consideration, we ask that you be patient. You will be notified in writing of your award status on or before **March 2, 2009.**

Thank you for applying to the Thursday Network I EMPOWER Scholarship.

Section II: EDUCATION

Name of High School: _____

Cumulative High school GPA: |_|_|. |_|_|_|

Standardized Test Scores (*please provide supporting documentation*):

SAT	ACT
Mathematics: _ _ _ _ _	
Critical Reading: _ _ _ _ _	
Writing: _ _ _ _ _	
Total: _ _ _ _ _	

Please list the colleges/universities to which you have applied.

Name	Location (City, State)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Attach additional sheets if needed.

Applicant's Last Name

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Section III: AWARDS, HONORS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please list any academic honors, awards and extracurricular activities from the past 3 years.

Name of Honor/Award/Activities	Short Description	Year(s)
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Attach additional sheets if needed.

Section IV: WORK EXPERIENCE

List any work (including after-school/summer jobs, volunteer positions, internships) that you have done over the past 3 years. If you choose to provide a résumé, make sure it provides the hours you spent working.

Title	Employer Name	Dates of Employment	Approx. Hrs per week
1.			
2.			
3.			

Attach additional sheets if needed.

Applicant's Last Name

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Section V: ESSAY

Because of the Thursday Network's ongoing commitment to community service, we want to ensure that our scholarship recipients share the same values. We ask that you **write an essay in which you a) briefly describe your participation in community service, including any leadership positions you may have had and b) select one strategy from the Urban League's five-point agenda listed below and describe how it fits with your college and career aspirations.** You may also use this opportunity to bring attention to any information not disclosed elsewhere that you feel will add to our understanding of your application.

National Urban League's Five-Point Empowerment Agenda:

- 1) Education and Youth Empowerment
- 2) Economic Empowerment
- 3) Health and Quality of Life Empowerment
- 4) Civic Engagement and Leadership Empowerment
- 5) Civil Rights and Racial Justice Empowerment

For a detailed description of the five-point agenda, visit www.thursdaynetwork.org/vision.html.

Your response should be no longer than 2 double-spaced pages in 12 pt. font. Your essay will be evaluated for clarity of expression, use of proper grammar and punctuation, and the extent to which you address each of the items above.

Section VI: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Please provide a.) a copy of your parent or guardian's most recent Federal Income Tax returns **and** either b.) a copy of your most recent SAR or c.) a copy of your completed FAFSA form. All information we receive will be kept confidential and will be used only for the purpose of assessing your financial need.

- a.) Parent/guardian's most recent Federal Income Tax returns (**required**)
&
 b.) Your most recent Student Aid Report (SAR).
or
 c.) Completed FAFSA or Financial AID Application from a college/university to which you are applying.

You may attach a written statement describing any major changes in your family's financial situation.

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Section VII: LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please provide **at least two letters of recommendation**. One of those letters must come from a faculty member and one from anyone who has had an oversight or supervisory role in your community service activities.

In the spaces below, please indicate from whom we may expect to receive letters.

Name	Affiliation/Organization
1. (faculty)	
2. (comm. svc)	

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Applicant's Last Name