



THE TDI “TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITIES” ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

T.D.I., Turning Dreams Into Realities, is an organization founded by Alabama State University alumni from the states of Texas and Alabama that is dedicated to assisting high school or college students with making a successful transition into adulthood, higher education or the professional workforce by way of mentor and apprenticeship programs, scholarships, leadership, or entrepreneurship opportunities.

TDI’s Vision is to advance human well-being by assisting in developing holistic, well rounded individuals who will become positive contributors to society and will in turn assist in reciprocating that effort for future generations of young men and women.

TDI’s Core Values are God 1st, Family 2nd, Integrity, Giving, Humble, Trust, & Service

The Turning Dreams Into Realities Mentorship Program was established to support the developmental needs of collegiate men and women that have a desire to pursue their dreams after school. Our programs were created in the spirit of what defines TDI yesterday, today and tomorrow, which is the embracing of fellowship and strong relationships, the desire to have fun, and the assurance that all endeavors are performed in excellence. TDI offers mentorship, internship and apprenticeship opportunities to students during and/or after their college career. In addition to providing leadership development and business acumen, TDI cares about sharing lessons learned from its member’s experiences in an effort to reduce the risk of mentored students making the same mistakes. We want to form life-long personal and business relationships with our mentees. The number of students accepted into the Mentorship Program will be determined by TDI each year.

The Turning Dreams Into Realities Annual Scholarship Award will initially total two separate awards that will be at least \$500 each, which are scheduled to be initially awarded in Spring 2010. One of the two scholarship awards will be targeted towards students from the areas or surrounding areas of Talladega (AL), Dallas/Ft. Worth (TX), Carrollton (AL), or Prattville (AL). If a student from our targeted area is not awarded the scholarship, it will be awarded to any deserving and qualified student. Once awarded the initial scholarship, the student will be eligible to receive annual scholarship awards at varying amounts that increase each year of their college career (up to four years) provided they continually participate in the mentorship program and maintain the academic and civic requirements of the scholarship award program all four years. If one fails to maintain the scholarship award requirements at any point during their four year college career, the allotted scholarship awards for that given year will be made available to other participants of the mentorship program

even if they are an existing scholarship award recipient. In addition to providing annual scholarship awards, TDI plans to provide various one-time scholarship awards each year as well as non-traditional awards such as laptops, airline tickets, and other types of non-monetary support. TDI recognizes that student financial, academic and developmental needs can vary; thus, our program has been designed to fill as many gaps as possible by providing scholarships, mentorship, and many other opportunities throughout a student's college career.

The Turning Dreams Into Realities Annual Scholarship Award is available to applicants meeting the following eligibility requirements:

- Completed at least one semester with a minimum of 12 hours
- **Active participation in the TDI Turning Dreams Into Realities Mentorship Program**
- Completion of an essay (topic disclosed below)
- Must maintain a GPA of 2.8 or higher to be eligible for subsequent year awards

Required Documentation:

- Completed and signed application
- Completed Essay
- One Reference Letter **in a sealed envelope** from a teacher/professor, guidance counselor, employer or community leader (civic or religious)

Scholarship applications will be accepted between June 30th and December 31st in any given year for consideration of awards to be paid out that following spring. We recommend that you allow 5 to 10 days for mail delivery. Faxed or e-mail packets will not be accepted. All scholarship materials must be submitted in one application packet. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The Scholarship Award will be announced every year by the end of March.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name:

SECTION A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

DATE:

FIRST NAME:

MIDDLE INITIAL:

LAST NAME:

PERMANENT ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

HOME PHONE:

CELL PHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

DATE OF BIRTH (mm/dd/yyyy):

HIGHEST DEGREE DESIRED:

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY:

EXPECTED DATE OF GRADUATION:

CAREER GOALS AND DESIRES:

What is the best way to contact you?

SECTION B. PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Name:

Work Experience: Please list your work experience, beginning with your most recent employment.

Name of Employer	Position Held	Start date	End date
Example: <i>East-West Wellness Center</i>	<i>Program Assistant</i>	<i>5/07</i>	<i>present</i>

Awards or Honors: Please list any awards, honors or special recognition you have received.

Title of Award	Year
Example: <i>Arlington High School - Scholar Athlete of the Year</i>	<i>2006</i>

Organizational Membership: Please list organizational memberships and offices. These may include community organizations, teams, clubs, fraternities, sororities, honor societies, etc.

Name of Organization	Start date	End date
Example: <i>National Honors Society</i>	<i>9/05</i>	<i>5/07</i>

Name:

Volunteer Work/Community Activities: *Describe your volunteer work and/or community activities.*

Name of Organization	Description of responsibility	Start date	End date
Example: <i>Relay for Life</i>	<i>Team Captain: Organized a team of 25 members including family and friends. Raised nearly \$3,500</i>	3/07	6/07

Extra-Curricular Activities: *Dates may not always be applicable with extra-curricular activities.*

Activity	Start date	End date
Example: <i>Summer counselor, Camp Sea Side</i>	2003	2006

SECTION C. ESSAY

In this essay, discuss “What are your dreams in life?” Feel free to include such things as how your dreams will benefit or help others, how you plan to achieve your dreams, what you need to reach your dreams, or who you want to share in your dreams.

Please type your essay and attach it as a separate document to your application. Essays must be a minimum of 1,000 words, typed, and double spaced. *Hand-written essays will not be accepted.*

SECTION D. REFERENCE LETTER

One letter of recommendation, in a sealed envelope, should be included with your scholarship application packet. Your recommendation letter should be written by someone who knows you, personally, and can provide a detailed explanation to such topics as the 3 pertinent areas listed in the next paragraph. **We recommend you ask either a guidance counselor, teacher/professor, employer, or community leader (civic or religious) to provide your reference letter.**

AS AN EXAMPLE ONLY, your reference letter could include specific responses to the following 3 areas:

- 1. An explanation of your relationship, how long you have known each other, and in what capacity.**
- 2. A description of how you, the applicant, have dealt with your life experiences from their perspective?** For example, they may want to discuss personal challenges and triumphs, lifestyle changes that you've encountered, or any interests that you began pursuing because of your ambition.
- 3. A discussion on how your family or support group has changed or supported your educational or professional goals.** For example, they may want to discuss how their time, financial or spiritual support was provided in order for you to achieve your personal goals and objectives.

SECTION E. DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

I certify that all statements in this application are true. I understand that if I have not been truthful in any aspect of this process, I become ineligible for a scholarship or any other award and any funds I have been awarded will be terminated. I understand that this application will become the property of TDI. I agree that my essay may be reprinted in part or in full for the purposes of supporting, educating and connecting other students.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date**_____

SECTION G. FINAL CHECKLIST:

Take a moment and review the following list. Have you completed and enclosed all the necessary pieces?

- Completed all sections of the application
- Included a typed essay
- Signed and dated the Disclosure Statement
- Included one reference letter, signed and sealed in a separate envelope

REMEMBER: *Incomplete applications will not be considered.*

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MAIL YOUR APPLICATION PACKET TO:

**T.D.I., Turning Dreams Into Realities
c/o Anthony Lewis, Student Relations/Activity Coordinator
P.O. Box 43
Montgomery, AL 36101-0043**