FUND II FOUNDATION

UNCF STEM scholars

Investing in the Future of STEM

INTRODUCTION

African Americans represent just over 13 percent of the nation's total population, but less than 5 percent of the nation's tech workforce and less than 1 percent of our tech innovators and entrepreneurs—both of which are essential to drive the innovation and tech economy. This is a national challenge that needs to be addressed if America is to remain economically competitive.

Despite the bleak numbers, however, we know that in every city and town across America, there are bright, talented and motivated African American students who are hungry for opportunity and seek better futures through pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering or math—the STEM disciplines. In order to address the national challenge and to support a more robust STEM pipeline of next generation African American scholars, innovators and tech entrepreneurs, the Fund II Foundation and UNCF have established the Fund II Foundation UNCF STEM Scholars Program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The STEM Scholars Program is a ten-year initiative made possible through a generous grant from the Fund II Foundation designed to identify and provide scholarship and academic support for a total of 500 talented African American high school students who aspire to earn STEM degrees and to pursue careers in STEM fields. The program awards last-dollar funding.

The program will enable these highly capable young people to pursue undergraduate STEM majors at historically black colleges and universities, private colleges, state universities and technical colleges and universities, from matriculation through graduation, and to prepare them for successful careers in a variety of STEM professions. The application period for the Class of 2019 will open in November 2018 and close on March 3, 2019.

PROGRAM BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Tiered tuition scholarships up to $25,000:
    - $2,500 per academic year for freshmen and sophomores, $5,000 for juniors and seniors and an additional $5,000 for students whose academic programs require a fifth year
    - Scholarships are renewable for up to five undergraduate years, contingent upon:
        - Maintenance of a 2.5 (out of 4.0) grade-point average
        - Continued full-time enrollment to degree in an eligible STEM major
- A $5,000 stipend based on a STEM-related project/internship of the student's interest
- Academic support-services and mentoring
- Access to internal online community, academic support wrap around services, including additional STEM-discipline resources
- Participation in:
    - Summer Scholars Orientation and Conference
    - UNCF Student Tech Empowerment Workshop
- Career-development support:
    - Mentoring, training and education
    - Access to entrepreneurial training in launching new tech ventures through competitive Venture Accelerator program
- High school/pre-college STEM summer leadership institute

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ▶

To qualify, applicants must:

• Be African American

• Be a citizen, legal permanent resident or national of the United States

• Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on an unweighted 4.0 scale and have pursued a rigorous course of study in high school

• Have a demonstrated high level of academic performance in math and science, evidenced by a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale) in math and science courses including pre-calculus

• **Have demonstrated financial and unmet need as measured by the student's college or university**

• Show evidence of readiness for and commitment to pursue STEM majors, including:

   ° Biological/Life Sciences

   ° Physics

   ° Chemistry

   ° Computer Science/Engineering

   ° Information Sciences

   ° Engineering (industrial, mechanical, electrical or chemical)

   ° Mathematics

• Complete all of the application essays

• Arrange for a letter of recommendation to be submitted

• Be enrolled for the first time at a U.S.-located, accredited college or university (with the exception of students concurrently pursuing a high school diploma) in the fall as a full-time, degree-seeking, first-year student

• Complete and submit the application by the deadline

APPLICATION PROCESS ▶

The application process requires the student to:

• Meet all eligibility criteria and complete the student application at UNCF.org/STEMSCHOLARS. The application will open in November 2018 and close on March 3, 2019.

• Have a letter of recommendation submitted: from a high school STEM teacher or from a STEM program sponsor (an individual who has engaged the student in a STEM program during the school year and/or summer, and who can provide insight into the student's academic performance and potential for success in pursuing a STEM degree)

APPLICATION REVIEW ▶

Student applications will be reviewed and a pool of finalists will be selected. Finalists will be asked to electronically submit:

• An official high school transcript including their mid-year grades from the senior year

• A copy of the high school's profile: a document that is produced by schools, which contains standard data such as the number of students, school type and grading scale (don't worry if your school does not have an existing profile; it won't detract in any way)

• A copy of the financial aid award from any college or university to which they are admitted

• A copy of the Student Aid Report from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

APPLICATION TIPS ▶

Here are some things you can do to prepare for submitting a competitive application:

1) Begin thinking and talking to parents, counselors and teachers about your plans and what you will need to do to be ready to be a strong candidate for college admission and student aid.

2) Carefully consider which of your teachers or STEM program sponsors to ask for a letter of recommendation. They will help us better understand what type of student you are by providing insight into your academic performance and potential.

3) Apply for federal student aid. Go to www.FAFSA.ed.gov to see and become familiar with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and to get more information on federal student aid. If you are a finalist, we will use this form to confirm your citizenship and better understand your financial need.

4) Review your transcript to be sure that your GPA and the courses you have taken make you eligible for this program. And be sure to keep your grades up so that your mid-year transcript is positive.

5) Let us get to know you through your essays and help us to better understand your interests, goals, motivation and experiences that have shaped your decision to pursue an undergraduate STEM degree.