

The James Milton Oakley Memorial STEM Scholarship

Mr. Milton Oakley was born and raised in Virginia. He overcame poverty as a young man by embracing physical and mental hard work, and this became a hallmark of his character. Though his parents worked hard, they only had a middle-school education and struggled to provide for their children. Milton decided as a young teen that he wanted to have an easier life than his parents had. He knew that the key to a better life was education. Although his family had no hope of sending him to college, he used his work ethic and character to build a future for himself beginning at the Newport News Shipyard Apprentice School in 1958 as a pattern designer. He earned the top spot in his Apprentice School class and won a full scholarship to the University of Michigan. He earned two bachelor degrees in both Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics as a scholarship student. In 1967, he won the only National Society of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering scholarship in the USA. He returned to the University of Michigan and earned a Masters in Mechanical Engineering. He spent his career working as a mechanical engineer with a specialty in weapons elevators on the US Naval Fleet.

In 2013, at 73 years of age, Milton was called home after a courageous battle with skin cancer. Milton tackled his illness with all of the tenacity that was characteristic of how he approached life. His faith in God and his love for family sustained him through the last few months of his illness. Milton had a dry wit and self-effacing sense of humor, which were blessings to all who knew him.

To honor Mr. Oakley's memory, his family is awarding two scholarships this year:

- **2 x \$1000 for students attending a four-year college**

Recipients must meet the following criteria:

- Aspiration to major in **STEM** courses in college (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math)
- Demonstrated ability to overcome hardship or challenges as evidenced in an essay
- Demonstrated ability to clearly state career goals in an essay
- 2 Letters of recommendation from a teacher, guidance counselor, or principal of current high school
- Weighted GPA of no less than **3.1** for the community college applicant and no less than **3.4** for the four-year degree applicant
- Demonstrated interest in science/math/engineering high school coursework
- Clean criminal history
- Candidates with demonstrated financial need **MAY** be given preference

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Personal Information:

Full Name _____ Date/Place of Birth _____

Address _____

Sex: M or F _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ High School: _____

Parent(s) (Please give addresses if different from above):

Mother Name & Address: _____

Father Name & Address: _____

Financial Information (will be kept strictly confidential). You may use additional paper:

1. Please list any scholarship or financial aid which you have **APPLIED**:

2. Please list any scholarship or financial aid which you have been **AWARDED** (include value):

3. Please give details about any financial circumstances that would make it difficult for you to attend college:

4. Father's Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Employer: _____ Income: _____

5. Mother's Name: _____ Occupation: _____
Employer: _____ Income: _____

6. Number of dependent children: _____ Ages: _____

7. Family Income from other sources (List):

8. Amount that family can contribute toward the student's tuition/expenses per semester of college:

By signing, I attest that the above information is true:

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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To be completed by school counselor:

Student Name: _____ School: _____

Weighted GPA: _____ Class Rank: _____ out of _____

SAT Verbal: _____ Date: _____ SAT Math: _____ Date: _____

Counselor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please attach an official school transcript.

Please attach 2 letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor or principal at the current high school. The recommendation should attest to the moral character and good citizenship of the applicant and how they show evidence of interest in a STEM career.

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APPLICANT ESSAY #1

In 1000 words or less, explain how you have overcome a challenge (physical, mental, emotional or spiritual) in your life and how it has shaped the person that you have become.

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APPLICANT ESSAY #2

In 500 words or less, write about your STEM career goals and how you will use your career to positively impact the world in which you live.