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2021 Dr. Jean L. Harris Award Application

Dr. Jean L. Harris was mayor of Eden Prairie from 1996-2001. Her pioneering life began in the segregated South and included being the first African-American graduate of the Medical College of Virginia. She was also a poignant spokesperson for smoke-free workplaces while she was battling lung cancer. Dr. Harris advised five presidents on health policy, was a celebrated corporate and public health leader, and Eden Prairie's first female and first African-American mayor. Her remarkable life and achievements speak to the full promise of America and underscore the importance of continuing to inspire, embrace and engage the youth of Eden Prairie to shape a world with hope, honor, and dignity.

The Dr. Jean L. Harris Scholarship Award honors her legacy and supports young people who follow in her footsteps. The award was developed to honor high school seniors who promoted human rights and fostered diversity and an inclusive community spirit. The ideal candidate promotes the principles of the Eden Prairie Manifesto, which was championed by Dr. Harris:

Eden Prairie Manifesto

We, as representatives of Eden Prairie businesses, city government, and educational & religious institutions, accept special roles and responsibilities in fostering diversity in our community. We are dedicated to upholding the rights of every individual in our community to freedom, dignity, and security regardless of religious affiliation, race, ethnic heritage, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, or economic status.

Representing all sectors of Eden Prairie, we publicly declare our intentions:

- *To continue the development of a multicultural community which will not tolerate acts of harassment and intolerance;*
- *To establish, communicate and encourage community standards that respect diversity; and*
- *To promote acceptance and respect for individuals in an atmosphere of caring for others.*

How to apply

One high school graduating senior who resides in Eden Prairie and plans to pursue post-secondary education will be selected to receive a \$1,500 scholarship for tuition or fees. (It is renewable for a second year, at \$1,500, for a student in good standing.) The initial award will be made April 29, 2021. To apply, complete the information outlined below; submit in electronic form (Word or PDF formats only, please):

Name:

Address:

Home phone:

High school:

College/university will attend (if known):

Please submit the following information separately (in addition to this form):

- I. **Volunteer Activities Summary:** List the school, volunteer, community service, and/or church activities you have been involved with that reflect the principles of human rights and diversity. Describe your role or commitment in each volunteer activity, and include the time spent in the volunteer activity.
- II. **Two Short Essays (maximum 300 words each).** Your first essay: Based on the volunteer activities and experiences you've listed, what are your perspectives on human rights and diversity, and how do you demonstrate these concepts in your own life?
- III. **Read and review the Eden Prairie Manifesto.** Your second essay: What does the Manifesto mean to you? Describe how this relates to your volunteer activities in the community.
- IV. **Letters of Recommendation:** Include two letters of recommendation. It is *required* that at least one letter of recommendation be from someone in a leadership capacity from your volunteer activity that relates to the concept of this scholarship; that is, this letter should address your work in the areas of human rights and diversity. The other letter may be a copy of a college application recommendation letter from your teacher, school advisor, employer, etc.
- V. **Include your official high school transcript.**

SUBMISSION: Applications must be delivered to the Foundation electronically, in Word or PDF format. E-mail your materials to mweber@epcommunityfoundation.org. If you have any questions, contact Executive Director Mark Weber at (952) 949-8499.

Applications are due no later than Friday, Feb. 12, 2021, at 4 p.m.