

Phyllis McNeal Simmons Educational Scholarship Foundation
ESSAY

Cedric Akins
EAST Gadsden High School



"My Interests"

I'm moved with a great deal of interest and enthusiasm to be a candidate for the Phyllis McNeal Simmons Educational Scholarship that is given to deserving graduating seniors each year. I deserve this scholarship because I have worked hard and diligently to achieve academic success. Although I have overcome many challenges in my life, while attending high school, I successfully maintained a balance between those challenges and my studies. Throughout my life, I have worked as long and as hard as I possibly can to effect beneficial changes in both school and personal life. I have devoted my life both to working hard and achieving my goals to better myself.

My grade point average is a 3.33 and I am ranked number twenty-three in the graduating class of 2010 at East Gadsden High School. I have been an A and B honor roll student since ninth grade. I have received the academic award for both football and baseball for the last three years. I am a member of the Upward Bound Club (Florida State University), the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and the Key Club. I am also enrolled in the Tallahassee Community College Dual Enrollment Program. I am presently an employee with CVS franchise in Quincy, Florida. I am a member of the Mount Zion Primitive Baptist Church, Quincy, Florida. I am part of and actively involve with the youth department and serve on the usher board.

I have recently received admission to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, Florida and the University of West Florida, Pensacola, Florida. I have accepted admission at West Florida University. My major will be Dentistry. Once I complete my undergraduate studies, I plan to

further my education with a master in dentistry. I am planning to return to the Gadsden County area to open my own practice.

Receiving this scholarship will allow me to give back to my community through my profession. My position will allow me to collaborate with service providers to help fill the gaps so that I can provide basic assistance to families. I will be able to work on micro and macro levels to improve dentistry services for children, youth and families in the Gadsden County area.

I view the scholarship as an opportunity to help me achieve my dream, as well as the dream of my parents, to be one of the first members of my family to attend college. I believe education is vital to becoming a successful and productive citizen. I am aware that many students will not be able to attend college either because of financial situations or due to educational deficiencies; therefore I take this opportunity seriously. As a recipient of this scholarship; it will allow me to be an example to other students that are facing similar challenges that I have faced especially those students that may think that going to college is an unattainable dream because of their circumstances.

We live in a society today where there are neither excuses nor limitations to furthering your education. I am dedicated and determined to excel in my educational journey.

If I am selected to receive this scholarship, I will be greatly honored and appreciative. I will do my best to maintain and strive to excel in my academic success in college as I demonstrated in high school. I am committed to finishing the course of my education and to one day give back to a deserving student.

I would like to thank the Phyllis McNeal Simmons committee for their time and effort to opening the educational door for students in the Gadsden County communities.

Sincerely,
Cedric Akins
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