

# Phyllis McNeal Simmons Educational Scholarship Foundation

## ESSAY by: Ni'Jah Johnson



### 2017 Winner

"Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough"

by

Og Mandino

"My Interests"

S-U-C-C-E-S-S! That's the way we spell success. This is a cheer that reflects my attitude towards my future endeavors, which entail attending Florida A&M University and majoring in nursing.

My greatest interest is to become a nurse so that I may assist in helping individuals in need of medical treatment feel better. My desire in wanting to become a nurse developed when my aunt became ill. She would ask me to rub her legs and feet when they were aching. At the time, I was about five years old and didn't think rubbing her legs and feet would make her feel better. But, when I finished she would always tell me they felt better.

A nurse must be caring and nurturing, and I believe I possess those traits. I am always considering the feelings of other people over myself. I would rather give to or share with a person in need than to be selfish. Sometimes I have been told that I am too nice, but I believe "It's better to give than to receive."

Another interest I have involves creating an elementary and middle-aged cheer/step competition squad. In my community, there are no elementary or middle school competition squads, nor is there a step quad. Many of the local elementary and middle schools have cheering squads, but they only cheer at school sponsored basketball and football games. They don't receive any regional or state exposure to witness the different aspects of cheering; such as tumbling, stunting, and synchronized dancing. Organizing a competitive squad would enable the young ladies to witness and experience this type of exposure.

Also, creating a step team would allow the young ladies another opportunity to be involved in an activity that helps to develop discipline, coordination, and dedication. Both organizations would be academic-based and offer community service to the surrounding areas.

My interests are not motivated by money, but by the desire to give back to and support my community. I have been fortunate enough to be exposed to different organizations that have impacted my life; therefore, it is only befitting that I provide the same opportunities to other young ladies.