



Johnny C. Burton Memorial Scholarship Application

The **Johnny C. Burton Memorial Scholarship** was established in 1996 by his wife Betty S. Burton and their three daughters. Born in 1935, in Arkansas, Mr. Burton was raised in Muskegon Heights as one of five children of an African-American family. Due to his hard work, creativity and entrepreneurial skills, he became a successful and respected businessman, known throughout Grand Rapids and Michigan. He went on to create Wonderland Business Forms, Inc., a distributor of business forms and paper products, with customers ranging from world class corporations and public and government institutions to small, independent stores and offices. During his lifetime, Mr. Burton shared his success with family, church and community. His generosity included financial support, assertive leadership, and unlimited time. However, the mentoring of African American youth and showing them how to maximize an opportunity was Mr. Burton's most important contribution and gave him the greatest pleasure. For this reason the **Johnny C. Burton Scholarship** was established.

Scholarship: Full academic year enrollees who are selected will be awarded not less than \$500. These scholarships can be applied for annually. The money will be applied directly by GVSU to the student's tuition, housing, or fees. At least two students receive the award each year.

Eligibility: This scholarship is given to qualifying entering students, or students currently attending GVSU. The scholarship is specifically for African-American students who demonstrate a high level of interest in pursuing a career in business and/or entrepreneurship. High school seniors should have a cumulative GPA of 3.1 or a minimum ACT score of 20. GVSU and transfer students must have attained a cumulative GPA of 2.85. The Scholarship Committee may make limited exceptions.

How to Apply: Applicants should submit this **application**, a personal **essay** and at least **two current letters of recommendation**, to the Office of Multicultural Affairs (616-331-2177) at Grand Valley State University, Attn: Johnny C. Burton Scholarship, 1240 Kirkhof, 1 Campus Drive, Allendale, MI 49401 **on or before March 1st**.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____ Phone _____

G Number _____ Major Field of Study _____

Home Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Name of high school and graduation date _____

College class standing (i.e. freshman) _____

Your career goal(s) _____

Please attach a **TYPED PERSONAL ESSAY**: The essay should not exceed 3 double spaced typewritten pages. The essay should inform the committee why you should be chosen as the recipient of a scholarship named for an African-American entrepreneur who would not allow poverty, adversity, and prejudice to prevent him from realizing personal and financial success. If this scholarship helps you to attain your personal educational and career goals, how will you make an impact on our global society and share your success with other young African-Americans? What things have you done in the past, as a student or otherwise, which would cause the committee to believe that you will be a deserving recipient of a Burton Scholarship?

Signing below verifies that your essay is your work and yours alone.

Signature

Date