



Dr. Gerald & Gwen Dawkins

First Chance Scholarship

"Failure is Not an Option"

Application: Please type or print clearly in black or blue ink.

Applicant Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Permanent Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ G.P.A. _____

High School _____ High School Counselor _____ Phone Number _____

Name of Parents/Guardian's _____

Parent's/Guardian's address _____
(If different from students')

Your Career Goals & Objectives _____

Have you applied to college? Yes _____ No _____

If yes where? _____

Name of College/University/Vocational School

College Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Have you been accepted? Yes _____ No _____

If not why? _____



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The eligibility requirements, outlined by Dr. Gerald and Gwen Dawkins:

- Must be a Grand Rapids, Michigan Resident
- Must be a 2026 High School Graduate
- Must be enrolled in college August or September of 2026
- Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher over seven semesters
- Must be African American
- Must be a student of Grand Rapids Public Schools
- Must possess good writing skills proven by submitting a typed, one page, double-spaced, 12 point font essay answering the following question: **African Americans today, are we moving forward or still struggling?**
- Must be pursuing a college or university degree or vocational education from an accredited college (scholarship can be used outside the state of Michigan).
- Applicant must be of good character, with two letters of recommendation from members of the community (teacher, counselor, religious leader, etc.).

Scholarship applications will be accepted beginning **January 19, 2026**. The deadline for your completed packet is **March 13, 2026 at 3:00 PM**. **Absolutely no late applications will be accepted**. The committee will review all timely applications received and select the scholarship winner. Scholarship winner(s) counselor(s) will be notified by **April 20, 2026**. **While reviewing applications, please note that the Scholarship Committee considers the following when making selections:**

- Cumulative Grade Point Average (over seven semesters)
- Communication Skills/Grammar
- Extra-Curricular Activities—Please attach on a separate page.
- Community Service—Please attach on a separate page.

The amount of the scholarship is **\$1,000.00** and can be used for any of the following:

- Tuition
- Books
- Fees
- Room and board

Please mail or email your completed packet, containing the following: **Application, original official high school transcript with school seal and counselor\registrar signature, a copy of your collegiate acceptance letter, essay, and two letters of recommendation**. Must be mailed or emailed to:

Dr. Gerald & Gwen Dawkins First Chance Scholarship
P.O. Box 8222 Grand Rapids, MI 49518

gwen@firstchancescholarship.org

You will be contacted by Mrs. Gwen Dawkins if you are a recipient of the Dr. Gerald & Gwen Dawkins First Chance Scholarship with directions to collect your funds. "Put Your Mind To It And Push Forward"