

## Curtis Harkness Scholarship

### **Description:**

The Curtis Harkness Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship established in 2015 to support students from traditionally underserved populations during the first year of college. The scholarship is in honor of the late James "Curtis" Harkness, a humanitarian, passionate student advocate and champion of diversity and inclusion in higher education. He had an outstanding career in higher education, spanning 27 years and three colleges, Lander University, the University of South Carolina-Aiken and Greenville Technical College where he medically retired as vice-president of student, diversity and community affairs. He once stated in an interview that his top goal in life was to be a servant to others. He was known for his love of people, and often was called "the gentle giant" for his height and kindness.

The scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership potential, perseverance in the face of adversity and show economic need (broadly defined). The scholarship is administered by the Greenville County District and funded by the James Curtis Harkness Foundation. Funds must be applied directly to the cost of attendance and all funds will be sent directly to the recipient's institution of higher education. The total award is \$1000, half of which will be awarded in the first term of the freshman year upon provision of proof of full-time enrollment (12 or more semester hours) your student number. The other half will be awarded during the second term of the freshman year upon provision of proof of full-time enrollment and a 2.50 college GPA.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- South Carolina resident
- Senior at any of the high schools in the School District of Greenville County
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
- A minimum score of 900 on the highest combined Critical Reading and Math portions of the SAT or a minimum composite score of 19 on the ACT
- Plan to attend a 2 or 4 year college
- Submit the application and two short essays to your **high school counselor, except charter students!**
- Charter students mail applications directly to: JCH Foundation, P O Box 80321, Simpsonville, SC 29680**
- Submit applications by the deadline of February 15th of your senior year (if the deadline falls on a weekend, the deadline is the preceding Friday)**
- Relatives of the high school counselors who participate in the selection process, the foundation's board or the foundation's donors are not eligible to apply

### **Selection and Notification Process:**

- Student applications will be evaluated and ranked by a committee of at least three (3) high school counselors employed by the School District of Greenville County
- This list will be submitted to the board of directors of the foundation to make the final selection of the scholarship recipients
- Scholarship recipients will be notified of their award by March 31<sup>st</sup> (if the deadline falls on a weekend students will be notified by the preceding Friday)

### **Distribution of Funds:**

- \$500 will be distributed to the student's institution of higher education during the first term of the freshman year with proof of full-time college enrollment (minimum of 12 semester hours)

-\$500 will be distributed to the student's institution of higher education during the second term with proof of full-time enrollment and a 2.50 college GPA