

The West Indian Foundation Inc.

Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow



Entrepreneurial Spirit Award

Background

This award is given in memory of Mrs. Winnifred Bennet who valued education, entrepreneurship, hard work and a commitment to community. Winnifred Ellen "Molly" Tate-Bennett was born in St. Andrew, Jamaica. In 1956, she migrated to the United States and married her husband of over forty years until his death, Collin B. Bennett. In the 1960's, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett established the Collin B. Bennett Real Estate and Insurance Agency in Hartford. Mrs. Bennett ran the day-to-day operations of the business until its closing around 2017. She was also the business manager of the Collin Bennett Building at 1229 Albany Avenue, one of the first privately funded black owned commercial buildings in the state. Mrs. Bennett was very knowledgeable in construction, particularly the rehabilitation of buildings and loved to visit her various properties throughout the city to "check up on them". She valued homeownership and encouraged people to invest in a home.

She and her husband helped to establish the a (CNA) Certified Nursing Aide Program. This Nursing Aide Program educated and graduated more than 600 students over 15 years at no cost to the students. Molly valued education and hard work. She loved and respected all people and particularly her brothers and sisters in the West Indian/American community in Hartford. Her favorite motto was "do all the good you can."

Scholarship Focus

The Entrepreneurship/Business Award will be awarded to an individual who is interested in pursuing a career as an entrepreneur or business owner in Connecticut. Funds can also be used towards a business certification or a professional license.

Eligibility Requirements

- ☆ Applicant must be interested in being an entrepreneur or business owner or pursuing a career that requires certification or a license. Preference will be given to someone following a career in insurance or real estate.
- ☆ Applicant must be applying to and/or accepted to a business or professional training program or enrolled in a certification or licensing class.
- ☆ Applicant must have graduated from an accredited high school or obtained a GED certificate.

Application Requirements

A complete application packet must include the following:

1. One (1) letter of recommendation, one letter written by a person who can speak to the applicant's entrepreneurial spirit.
2. A 300-word essay responding to the question, "Why is entrepreneurship/business ownership important to me and my community?"

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Please PRINT or TYPE responses in blue or black ink. If additional space is needed, please print additional pages.

Name _____

Business or Trade _____

Home Address _____

City/Town & Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Preferred method of contact (select one): Phone Number ____ Email ____

I attest that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Application must be submitted by **March 1st** to Scholarship@westindianfoundation.org to be considered.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit Award Committee reserves the right to reject an application due to false information, incomplete documentation and/or the availability of funds.