

The West Indian Foundation Inc.

Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow



West Indian Farm Workers Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Background

From 1943 to 1947, under the terms of intergovernmental agreements with British West Indian governments, the U.S. government recruited and transported approximately seventy thousand Jamaicans, Barbadians, and Bahamians to the United States for agricultural employment. The stimulus for the agreements came from American farmers, especially large growers, who complained to the federal government that they were experiencing a shortage of farm labor. Many rural men and women entered the armed forces during World War II, while others escaped the low wages of farm work for the better wages offered in the expanding defense industry. As men and women deserted the farms, farmers became increasingly concerned about their dwindling supply of labor, and although there was no severe scarcity of domestic workers, the federal government was convinced to create an emergency program to alleviate labor shortages on farms.

Concurrent with American growers' struggle to recruit labor, the Caribbean was experiencing extreme economic devastation and political upheaval. In the late 1930s, high levels of unemployment and sociopolitical unrest led to riots throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean. Colonial administrations had only begun to propose remedies to the problems that gave impetus to the riots when World War II began. Additionally, wartime restrictions on shipping created food shortages and devastated the tourist industry in the Bahamas and on other islands, thereby exacerbating the already high levels of unemployment. These conditions encouraged Caribbean administrations and colonial authorities in Great Britain to support the American plan to transport West Indians to the United States for farm work.

Scholarship Focus

The West Indian Farm Workers Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior graduating from an accredited high school in Connecticut who is a direct descendent of a West Indian Migrant Farm Worker.

Eligibility Requirements

- ☆ Applicant must be a high school senior graduating from an accredited high school in Connecticut
- ☆ Applicant must hold a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher, on a 4.0 scale.
- ☆ Applicant must be applying to and/or accepted to an accredited 4-year college or university.

Application Requirements

A complete application packet must include the following:

1. One (1) letter of recommendation: one letter written by applicant's current high school teacher, guidance counselor, principal or professor.
2. A current transcript from your graduating high school(s)
3. A 300-word (minimum of 250-word) essay responding to the question, "How has your family background affected the way you see the world?"
4. A resume that details your community service experiences, employment, and extra-curricular activities (include varsity, junior varsity, clubs student government, etc.).

5. **A notarized Statement of Proof of relationship to a West Indian Migrant Farm Worker to the United States.**

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Please PRINT or TYPE responses in blue or black ink.

I. STUDENT PROFILE

Name _____

High School _____

Home Address _____

City/Town & Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

II. COLLEGE PLANS

Please list and rank the institution(s) that you have applied to:

College/University	Location	Accepted (Y/N)	Intended Major
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

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 West Indian Migrant Farm Workers Memorial Scholarship Committee reserves the right to reject an application due to false information, incomplete documentation and/or the availability of funds.

West Indian Migrant Farm Workers Memorial Scholarship

Statement of Proof

I, _____ do affirm that
Name of Applicant

Name of Migrant Farm Worker relationship

Is/was a West Indian Migrant Farm Worker to the United States from

Country

During the year(s) _____

I do further affirm that the foregoing statement is true and accurate.

Signature of Applicant

To be completed by Notary Public

Sworn before me on this day _____
mm/dd/yr

Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of Witness _____
(Not valid without seal)

Seal

Signature of Notary Public _____ Commission Expires _____