

ALL – USA Academic Team Competition

Open to *Eligible* MTC Students

The All-USA Academic Team is sponsored by *USA TODAY*, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. The purpose of this program is to recognize scholarly achievements of students enrolled in community, technical and junior colleges. For the purpose of this award, “scholar” is defined as one who excels in the classroom; who has the intellectual curiosity to pursue academic, career, and cultural enrichment outside the traditional classroom; that shows evidence of substantial development of talents in academic and technical education; and who has demonstrated an ability to share this development with others.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The student must be **currently enrolled at Midlands Technical College** and will be enrolled at least through **December 2008**.
2. The student must be eligible to graduate, **December 1, 2008** through **August 31, 2009**.
3. Students must be on track to earn an Associate or a Bachelor degree. Must complete 36 semester, college level credits by December 31st, 2008 and 48 semester, college-level credits by August 31, 2009. Students must have a minimum of 30 semester, college-level credits in the past five years. The student must have a cumulative grade point average of not less than a 3.50 out of a possible 4.0 in all college credit coursework completed within the last five years (minimum of 12 semester hours).
4. Traditional, non-traditional, part-time, fulltime and international students may apply. Must not have been nominated previously for the All-USA Academic Team
5. Student’s records must be free from suspension, probation, or other serious disciplinary action between the time of this nomination and the AACC convention.
6. This is the only All-USA Academic Team program to which the nominee is applying this year. Other programs include the All-USA Four-Year College Academic Team and the All-USA Academic Team High School.

DEADLINE TO APPLY NOON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2008

Application Procedures

Packets are available through the Student Life Office (ASC 126/BSC 101). Or, students may download the application:

www.ptk.org/schol/aaat/announce.htm ACCESS CODE: ausat2009

Return completed packet to: Vanessa Brown/BSC 100 by NOON, Friday, November 14th to be considered as an MTC nominee.

Selection Procedures

The Midlands Technical College Student Honors Committee will review applications and submit two nominees to the All-USA Academic Team Review Committee.

Awards and Recognition

ALL-USA ACADEMIC TEAM PROGRAM

- 20 students named Gold Scholars (formerly first team) each receive a \$2,500 stipend, medallion, and are featured in *USA TODAY*.
- 20 students named Silver Scholars (formerly second team) each receive a \$1,500 stipend, medallion, and are listed in *USA TODAY*.
- 20 students named Bronze Scholars (formerly third team) each receive a \$1,000 stipend, medallion, and are listed in *USA TODAY*.



ALL-USA APPLICATION

<http://scholarships.ptk.org>

AACC Coca-Cola Foundation Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Phi Theta Kappa® USA TODAY

PUBLICITY/VERIFICATION

As a public award, nominees must be aware that anything in the nomination form could become public through the media. Please note that USA TODAY has exclusive press coverage of the All-USA Community

College Academic Team recognition program. Phi Theta Kappa requests notification should any disciplinary action be brought against a nominee between the time of nomination and the AACC convention. All nominees must send official transcripts reflecting fall 2008 grades and credits to be received by February 2, 2009.

OVERVIEW:

The All-USA Community College Academic Team has been reinstated and expanded this year to include additional scholarship opportunities. In partnership with the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Phi Theta Kappa and the Coca-Cola Foundation, this expanded program seeks to honor nearly 400 students as representatives of all outstanding community college students around the world. Nearly \$500,000 in stipends will be provided to students in 2009.

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NEW CENTURY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- 52 Total Awards (2 new awards this year)
- \$2,000 stipend awarded to the top scoring nominee from Alberta, Canada
- \$2,000 stipend awarded to the top scoring nominee from a two-year college with a Phi Theta Kappa Chapter outside of Canada and the United States
- \$2,000 stipend awarded to the top scoring All-USA Academic Team nominee in each of the 50 states in the U.S.
- Winners will receive recognition and stipends at the American Association of Community Colleges Convention April 4-6, 2009 in Phoenix, AZ
- Winners are featured in AACC's Community College Times and Community College Journal

COCA-COLA SCHOLARS

- 300 students named finalists in the All-USA Academic Team program will be named Coca-Cola Scholars and receive a \$1,000 stipend and certificate

ALL-STATE ACADEMIC TEAM PROGRAMS

- Nominees to the All-USA Academic Team are automatically named to an All-State Academic Team (in 36 participating states)
- Many All-State team programs provide stipends and statewide recognition to team members
- More than \$40 million dollars in scholarships are currently designated by senior institutions exclusively to All-State Academic Team members in participating states

The criteria are designed to find students who excel academically, show intellectual rigor in their course of study, demonstrate academic/leadership/civic growth, and extend their community college education to better themselves, their schools and their communities. Designed to represent the diversity found

on community college campuses, all types of students – traditional, non-traditional and international – are eligible. Students attending colleges located in the U.S. need not be members of Phi Theta Kappa to be eligible. Those outside the U.S. may be nominated for the New Century Scholar program but must be Phi Theta Kappa members.

NOMINATION PROCEDURES:

- Each college may nominate two students per campus. The students must attend the nominating campus. Colleges may not nominate more than two nominees from a single campus.
- Additional forms may be downloaded from <http://scholarships.ptk.org> with the access code provided in the application packet mailed to each Campus President/CEO or designated contact.
- All forms, with official or unofficial transcripts, must be mailed in one packet. Photocopied forms may be sent in, but materials submitted via e-mail or fax will not be accepted. Make a photocopy of each nominee's application materials as copies cannot be provided after they have been submitted. Partial materials and incomplete applications, even sent before the deadline, are not accepted.
- All materials must be received (not postmarked) on or before December 1, 2008. Items received after the deadline will not be accepted.
- All nominees must send a final official transcript reflecting fall grades/credits; they must be received no later than February 2, 2009. Failure to submit these transcripts may result in disqualification.

Send completed applications to:

Phi Theta Kappa, All-USA Community College Academic Team Program, 1625 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211.

ADVICE TO NOMINATORS AND NOMINEES:

The All-USA Academic Team seeks to honor outstanding students from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines to hold up as representatives of all outstanding community college students. Nominees may be pursuing an associate degree or intend to transfer and earn a baccalaureate degree. Please review carefully the eligibility criteria with your student nominees.

The All-USA Academic Team is a merit award based on students' community college accomplishments. The centerpiece of the form is the student's essay on his/her most outstanding community college endeavor. It can be in community service, in research, the arts, journalism or public affairs. The discussion questions give judges a sense of the nominee's background and commitments outside of school so they can place the nominee's achievements in context. Overcoming obstacles to attend community college and having family and/or work obligations are not criteria for the award.

Because the nomination form is written to match judging criteria, it is important to read the form carefully and follow directions precisely. Be specific and concise. All responses must be typed in a typeface no smaller than 10-point and adhere to length limits specified on the forms. Any additional materials (such as photographs or newspaper clippings) will be removed before judging and will not be returned.

Accuracy is important. Make sure the total hours tallied for work, activities and classes do not exceed the total number of hours physically possible during that time period. All contents of the form are subject to verification, and students may be disqualified even after notification if their nomination forms contain inaccuracies.

INSTITUTIONAL NOMINATION AND ELIGIBILITY FORM Form A

To be completed and signed by the college president/campus CEO

Nominee's Name: _____
(Last Name) (First Name) (M.I.)

Nominating Institution: _____ Campus: _____

College Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

College President/CEO Name: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

ELIGIBILITY DATA:

- Yes No This institution is a candidate for accreditation or is currently accredited by the following regional accreditation association (check one):
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> North Central Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities | <input type="checkbox"/> New England Association of Schools and Colleges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Association of Colleges and Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Association of Schools and Colleges |
- If your institution is not located in the United States and you are nominating a student for the New Century Scholar program, check here.
- Yes No Is the nominee currently enrolled at this college and campus, and will the nominee be enrolled at least through December 2008?
- Yes No Will the nominee have at least 36 semester (or 48 quarter) college-level credit hours either completed at or transferred to a community college by December 31, 2008, and be on track to complete at least 48 semester hours (or 72 quarter) by August 30, 2009?
- Yes No Will this nominee have a minimum of 30 semester (45 quarter) college-level credit hours completed at a community college within the past 5 years?
- Yes No Is the nominee on track to obtain an Associate or Bachelor degree (or the equivalent of a US Associate or Bachelor degree)?
- Yes No Does the nominee post a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.50 out of a possible 4.0 in all college-level credit coursework completed in the last five years? (Include coursework at all institutions attended in the past five years when calculating GPA.) (For institutions outside the U.S., nominees must rank in the top 10% of their class.)
- Yes No Is the nominee's record at this community college free from suspension, probation or other serious disciplinary action?
- Yes No Is this nominee's record either 1) free from any criminal conduct, or 2) if a convicted felon, has completed all conditions of sentencing, including probation?
- Yes No Is this the first time this student has been nominated for the All-USA Community College Academic Team or New Century Scholar Program?
- Yes No Will the institution provide an updated official transcript by February 2, 2009?
- Yes No If this nominee is chosen as a Gold Scholar (formerly First Team member) and/or New Century Scholar, and is attending a college located in the United States, will the institution provide travel and accommodation expenses for the nominee to attend the AACC convention in Phoenix, AZ? (Student winners outside of the United States are not required to travel.)
- Yes No Will the institution notify Phi Theta Kappa should the nominee face suspension, probation or other serious disciplinary action between the time of this nomination and the AACC convention?
- Yes No If this nominee is chosen as a First Team member and/or New Century Scholar, will the institution provide up to four 5"x7" professional quality, color photographs or a 300dpi digital photograph for publicity purposes?
- Yes No Does the nominee understand any part of this form may become public through the media should the nominee win?
- Yes No Will the institution refrain from publicly announcing any All-USA Academic Team members before April 6, 2009, when winners are announced at the AACC convention in Phoenix, Arizona?

IF YOU HAVE CHECKED NO ON ANY OF THE ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS ON THIS PAGE, THIS NOMINEE IS INELIGIBLE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE ALL-USA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC TEAM.

PRESIDENT/CEO WAIVER:

I consider this nominee to be of good character and an exceptional and responsible member of the academic community. All information included here is true to the best of my knowledge.

 (Signature of College President/CEO)

 (Date)

BIOGRAPHICAL FORM

Form B

To be completed by the nominee

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
(Last Name) (First Name)

Are you a Phi Theta Kappa Member? Yes No
(Membership is NOT required to apply unless you are outside of the U.S. Your member ID# can be found on your membership card. If you do not have your membership card, please contact Key Services at 800.946.9995.)

Phi Theta Kappa Member Number: _____

Nominating Institution: _____ Campus: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Permanent Home Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Email: _____
(One that will follow you when you move)

Course of Study: _____ Highest Degree Objective: _____

Current degree expected (circle one) AA AS AAS BA BS Date Expected: ____/____/____
MO/YR

If you are expecting an Associate Degree, do you intend to transfer? Yes No
(Transferring to a college or university is NOT required for consideration.)

Career Goal: _____

College-Level Credits: Earned: _____ Quarter Hours Semester Hours
(include all college-level coursework for past 5 years, even if at multiple institutions)
 Currently Carried: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____ (4.0 scale)

How did you hear about this scholarship opportunity? _____

Use additional pages to complete the following sections.

Put each answer on a separate sheet of paper. Number each part and include your name, school and email address at the top of each page.

Double space your answers, use type no smaller than 10-point, pay attention to length limits and please use complete names rather than acronyms.

Do not include any information that you would not want released publicly. Contents are subject to rigorous fact-checking.

2. TRANSCRIPTS (with optional addendum)

When you submit your application materials, please include official transcripts from ALL colleges you have attended in the past five years, even if you are no longer attending. The transcript for your current institution may be an official or unofficial transcript. In addition, you must send separately, for arrival by February 2, 2009, a final official transcript reflecting fall semester 2008 grades and credits, and they must show that you have completed 36 semester (or 48 quarter) college-level credits by December 31, 2008. If you would like to explain special circumstances that have affected the transcript (withdrawals or a drop in grades, for example), an addendum of no more than half a typed page will be accepted. Judges will deduct points for a large number of withdrawals or a drop in grades without adequate explanation.

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (each answer may not exceed one half typed page).

- A)** If applicable, describe paid positions, with dates and estimated time spent, as well as family or other non-volunteer obligations you have, while attending community college (do not include activities listed in other sections of this application).
- B)** Why did you choose to attend a community college?

4. CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT (may not exceed one typed page).

Using numbers and bullets rather than paragraph form, list NO MORE THAN THREE community college organizations in which you have participated. Feel free to include any honors or awards received related to your involvement. Be certain to include dates, leadership positions held, time spent (hours/week), plus specific activities or duties performed and scope or impact of your work. Do not include activities listed in the previous sections. Judges will consider ONLY the first page.

BIOGRAPHICAL FORM continued Form B

To be completed by the nominee

Please assemble the application in the following order:

- 1) **Form A**
(Institutional nomination/eligibility form)
- 2) **Form B**
(Student's signed biographical form)
- 3) Transcript, with optional addendum
- 4) Discussion question A
- 5) Discussion question B
- 6) Campus involvement
- 7) Community involvement
- 8) Letter of Recommendation 1 (Leadership letter)
- 9) Student essay
- 10) Letter of Recommendation 2 (Endeavor letter)

This application must be received on or before December 1, 2008, to

Phi Theta Kappa,
All-USA Community
College Academic
Team Program,
1625 Eastover Drive,
Jackson, MS 39211

5. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES (may not exceed one typed page).

Using numbers and bullets rather than paragraph form, list NO MORE THAN THREE community activities in which you have participated since you have been enrolled in community college. Feel free to include any honors or awards received related to your activities. Be certain to include dates, leadership positions held, time spent (hours/week), plus specific activities or duties performed and scope or impact of your work. Do not include activities listed in the previous sections. Judges will consider ONLY the first page.

6. LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #1 (Leadership letter).

Letters of recommendation give judges an expanded picture of the nominee's academic and leadership accomplishments and civic involvement. This letter must be from a current community college faculty member, administrator or dean and should give specific examples of how the student has demonstrated leadership abilities, service involvement, and impact outside the classroom. Letter must not exceed 500 words and must be typed on letterhead in type no smaller than 10 point, and signed.

Your letter must be clearly identified as letter of recommendation #1 at the bottom of the letter.

Current Community College: (circle one) Faculty Member Administrator Dean

Name: _____ Known: _____ mo/yrs

Title: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

7. ESSAY QUESTION (may not exceed two pages, typed and double-spaced).

Describe your most significant endeavor since attending community college in which you applied your academic or intellectual skills from your community college education to benefit your school, community or society. The endeavor may be in community/service learning, in research, in the arts, or in advocacy/public affairs. Judges will consider originality, initiative, degree of difficulty, results and benefit to society. ONLY two double-spaced typed pages will be considered. Please limit your answer to ONE specific endeavor.

8. LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #2 (Endeavor letter)

The second letter of recommendation should be from a mentor or supervisor who was directly involved in the endeavor that the nominee writes about in the essay. This letter should focus on the merits and impact of the endeavor discussed in the nominee's essay. If the endeavor discussed in the essay is a group project, the mentor should discuss the role the student played in the project and its success. Letter must not exceed 500 words and must be typed on letterhead in type no smaller than 10 point, and signed.

Your letter must be clearly identified as letter of recommendation #2 at the bottom of the letter.

Mentor From: (circle one) Campus Community Professional

Name: _____ Known: _____ mo/yrs

Title: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

9. WAIVER AND SIGNATURE(S)

I agree to allow myself to be placed in nomination for the 2009 All-USA Community College Academic Team. The information I have submitted is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the contents of this nomination are subject to verification. I acknowledge that if any of the contents of this form are untrue or if I engage in activities inconsistent with being held up nationally as an outstanding student, I could be disqualified even after notification. I understand that should I be named to the national team, anything submitted as part of this nomination form could become available to the public (excluding social security numbers).

(Signature of applicant)

(Date)

(Optional) I authorize Phi Theta Kappa to release my nomination information to four-year colleges and universities interested in providing scholarships to All-USA Community College Academic Team nominees.

(Signature of applicant)

(Date)