



## A BETTER CHANCE

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1963.

### *A Better Chance Scholar Awards - 2014*

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS

**The A Better Chance Young Leaders Award** is an annual award for middle school Scholars who demonstrate academic excellence as well as leadership within their school community. The award is presented to up to six (6) Scholars – two per grade – nationally. Each award winner receives a gift of \$250.

#### HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

**The Judith Berry Griffin Award**, named for Judith B. Griffin, President of A Better Chance from 1982-2003, carries with it a monetary award of **\$1,500** and is awarded to a senior who has shown exceptional and steadfast determination to achieve. The recipient will demonstrate successes through perseverance toward personal objectives, in spite of obstacles that might have impeded his or her progress.

**The Nancy J. Lucas Memorial Award** was established in loving memory of our Senior Program Coordinator who served the New York Metro Area from 1985 to 2002. Ms. Lucas's family, Delta Sigma Theta sorority sisters, A Better Chance colleagues, and countless alumni who benefited from her services have endowed this award. The award, and the **\$1000** that accompanies it, will be given to a Scholar who demonstrates leadership in promoting equity and justice at his or her school or offers special encouragement to peers.

**The A Better Chance Academic Achievement Award** is presented to a maximum of twelve (12) outstanding seniors who have demonstrated unusual academic distinction. In addition to excelling academically, seniors chosen must exhibit exceptional leadership potential in their school or home community and participate in community service activities. Applicants should have a transcript that demonstrates a willingness to explore the rich environment of their current school and a diverse range of classes. Seniors who have taken advantage of the most challenging courses in their school's rigorous curriculum and have demonstrated their academic prowess throughout their Member School career are encouraged to apply for this award. Each award winner receives a gift of **\$500**.

**The A Better Chance Excellence Award** of **\$350** is given to up to ten (10) students in grades 9-12 who embody the principles of what it means to be an A Better Chance Scholar. This includes, but is not limited to, demonstrated academic distinction and contributions to his or her school community. Applicants should show creativity and innovation in how they have not just passively matriculated, but have regularly displayed excellence as they consistently achieve in a manner that is representative of the goals and ambitions of A Better Chance and its Member Schools. Additional consideration will be granted to students who not only contribute to their individual school programs, but who have also found ways to give back to A Better Chance.



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### A Better Chance Scholar Awards Application 2014

*If you are a senior in high school, please complete the last page of this document and return it to A Better Chance by email to [cpsp@abetterchance.org](mailto:cpsp@abetterchance.org), even if you do not wish to complete the Awards Application.*

#### Personal Information (Please type or print neatly)

|  |       |                        |                |
|--|-------|------------------------|----------------|
| I am in: <input type="checkbox"/> Middle school  |       |                        |                |
| I am applying for awards as a: <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <sup>th</sup> Grader <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <sup>th</sup> Grader <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <sup>th</sup> Grader |       |                        |                |
| I am in: <input type="checkbox"/> High school  |       |                        |                |
| I applying for awards as a: <input type="checkbox"/> Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior               |       |                        |                |
| Last Name  |       | First Name             | Middle Initial |
| Date of Birth  |       | A Better Chance School |                |
| School Address (if at a Boarding School or CSP)  |       |                        |                |
| City   | State | Zip Code               | Country        |
| Home Address   |       | Apartment Number       |                |
| City   | State | Zip Code               | Country        |
| E-mail Address:  |       |                        |                |
| Telephone: Home:   |       | Cell:                  |                |



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### Academic Information

|                                     |       |          |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Overall school grade point average: |       |          |
| PSAT Scores (if taken)              |       |          |
| Verbal:                             | Math: | Writing: |
| SAT/ACT Scores (if taken)           |       |          |
| Verbal:                             | Math: | Writing: |

Please list any AP, Honors, or college-level courses you are taking or have already taken:

| Courses |  |  |
|---------|--|--|
|         |  |  |
|         |  |  |
|         |  |  |
|         |  |  |

Please list any scholastic honors or distinctions that you have achieved:

| Name of Award | Date Received | Brief Description |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
|               |               |                   |
|               |               |                   |
|               |               |                   |

Please list any conferences or academic symposiums in which you have participated:

| Conference | Date | Brief Description |
|------------|------|-------------------|
|            |      |                   |
|            |      |                   |



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### Academic-Based Extracurricular Activities

Please list all academic-based activities in which you have participated beginning with the most recent. Attach a description if necessary.

| Organization | Dates of Participation | Responsibilities |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------|
|              |                        |                  |
|              |                        |                  |
|              |                        |                  |

### Community Service & Volunteer Activities

Please list all community service and volunteer activities in which you have participated, beginning with the most recent. Attach a description if necessary.

| Organization | Dates of Participation | Responsibilities |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------|
|              |                        |                  |
|              |                        |                  |
|              |                        |                  |

### Internship/Employment Experience

Please list any work experience beginning with the most recent.

| Employer Name | Dates of Employment | Hours per Week | Responsibilities |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
|               |                     |                |                  |
|               |                     |                |                  |



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### Letter(s) of Recommendation

A Better Chance requires that potential award recipients submit at least one letter of recommendation. Applicants, please ensure that the required recommendation(s) is enclosed with your application in a sealed envelope. The Award Recommendation Form (page 5) must accompany recommendations in a sealed envelope with the recommender's signature written across the seal.

Please list the individual(s) who will submit a letter(s) of recommendation on your behalf.

| Name | Title | Organization | Relationship | Telephone # |
|------|-------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
|      |       |              |              |             |
|      |       |              |              |             |



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### Recommendation Form

**To the Applicant:** Please complete the top portion of this form and forward it to the individual writing the recommendation. The recommendation should be typed on letterhead stationery and returned with this form.

Applicant's Name (print)      Last Name:      First Name:

A Better Chance School:

I am aware of the rights afforded me by the Federal Educational Right to Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. I hereby ☐ waive ☐ do not waive my right to examine the contents of this recommendation letter. I understand that by waiving my right I do so under the condition that the reference is used solely for the purpose for which it is intended.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

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### To the Recommender:

This individual is applying for an annual award(s) from A Better Chance and your comments are important in the selection process. In your letter, please indicate how long and in what capacity you have known the applicant; be as specific as possible about the applicant's academic performance, leadership potential, and outstanding qualities. Keep in mind that the applicant cannot be considered for an award until your recommendation is on file. Please use official stationery and return the recommendation along with this form in a sealed envelope, signed across the seal, to the student.

Recommender's Name (print)      Last Name:      First Name:

Institution/Organization:

Address:

Telephone:      Email Address:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title:

How long have you known this student and in what capacity?



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### Additional Requirements

#### Transcripts

Applicants, you **must** provide a copy of your school's official transcript.

#### Essays

##### **High School Applicants must answer one (1) of the following:**

1. True leaders actively take the necessary steps to make their dreams a reality. Massachusetts Governor and A Better Chance Alumnus, Deval Patrick is a true leader. He recently wrote a memoir entitled *A Reason to Believe* about his journey from the South Side of Chicago to the Massachusetts State House. What is your dream or passion and what have you done to start making it a reality? How has your A Better Chance Member School shaped your dreams and aspirations and given you a 'reason to believe'?
2. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you. Please include how you got through the experience and what you learned about yourself in the process.

##### **Middle School Applicants must answer one (1) of the following:**

1. If you could be another life form for a day -an animal, plant, or microscopic life form - what would you be and why? Describe what you find interesting about his life form and how would you spend your day.
2. There are no teachers in the room and you are working on a small group project. There is one student that dominates the group and is not listening to the input of the other members and there is another student who has not come prepared to work and is not carrying his/her load. What would you do? Please tell us how you would deal with both of these situations. What strategies would you use in order to complete the project in the best way possible?

Your response should be **300** words or less. The essays should be typed and double-spaced. **Please make sure that your name and A Better Chance School are at the top of the page and that you sign your name at the end of the essay.**



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### **Bio**

Applicants, you must provide a bio of 150 words or less describing who you are and your accomplishments. Please note that the bio should be written in the third person. An example is below:

*Carol's demonstrable commitment to excellence is exemplary. Carol holds a 3.67 GPA and is a nationally ranked athlete in track and field. In addition to being a dedicated student and athlete, she maintains an unwavering commitment to community service. She was recently awarded the Princeton Prize in race relations which "promote[s] harmony, understanding, and respect among people of different races." Carol is the founder and president of Unity, which works towards tolerance and equity between different ethnic groups within her school community. She was one of five students selected to present and lead the Face It program to her school community, and she created both the Diversity and Voices column in her school newspaper. Carol plans on attending Smith College in fall 2009.*

### **Photo**

Please submit an electronic photo of yourself. The photo should be emailed to [cpsp@abetterchance.org](mailto:cpsp@abetterchance.org). Your name (first and last) should be written in the subject line of the email.





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### Award Application Checklist

Is your application complete?

- ☐ All items on this award application form are filled out completely and accurately
- ☐ Official Transcript
- ☐ Essays
- ☐ One recommendation (in a sealed envelope)
- ☐ Bio
- ☐ Photo

*Remember: In order for your application to be considered, all required documents must be received.*

**If you are a senior in high school, please complete the last page of this document, even if you do not wish to apply for the annual A Better Chance Awards.**

***Mail your Award Application packet to:***

College Preparatory Schools Program: Award Review Committee  
A Better Chance  
253 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT THE AWARD APPLICATION IS:**

**March 28, 2014  
(Receipt Date)**



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## High School Seniors Only!

Name of Scholar:

A Better Chance School:

In the space below, provide information about your college plan

| Name of College | Accepted                 | Pending                  | Waitlisted               | Will Attend              |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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