



2024-2025

Jonathan Earl Coleman Book Scholarship

Application Packet

Omicron Omega Chapter of

Iota Phi Theta® Fraternity Incorporated

“Building a Tradition, Not Resting Upon One”

HISTORY

IOTA PHI THETA® FRATERNITY, INC. was founded in 1963 at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. Iota Phi Theta is a nationally incorporated social/service fraternity, founded upon the purpose of, **“The Development and Perpetuation of Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, Fidelity, and Brotherhood among Men”**. The Fraternity presently consists of over 300 undergraduate and alumni chapters with approximately 26,000 members located in over 40 states and the District of Colombia.

Iota Phi Theta is a true product of the times during which it was founded. The early 1960’s were a time of intense struggle and conflict. The Civil Rights Movement was in full bloom, and African Americans were making their presence felt in bold new ways. There was a surge in Black Pride and the desire of Black empowerment reached an all-time high. Iota Phi Theta was a direct outgrowth of this aggressive call for validation, fairness, and equal rights. In fact, the Founders of Iota Phi Theta considered themselves **“Militant”** before the term was widely embraced.

The founders of Iota Phi Theta were Charles Briscoe, Charles Brown, Frank Coakley, Elias Dorsey, Jr., Charles Gregory, Albert Hicks, Louis Hudnell, Webster Lewis, John Slade, Lonnie Spruill, Jr., Michael Williams, and Barron Willis. This group of men was unique for several reasons. First, many were long-time friends. Spruill, Coakley, Dorsey, and Gregory had known one another since grade school, and Spruill and Coakley’s friendship extended to when the two were preschoolers.

Even more uniquely, many of these men were referred to as **“Non-Traditional”** students and were three to five years older than the average college student. Gregory, Willis, and Brown were all military veterans. Brown, Hicks, and Briscoe were married with small children. Several were also working full-time jobs, as well as full-time students. The group had a slightly different perspective than the norm for college students, based upon their ages, heightened responsibilities, and increased level of maturity. The original Iota Phi Theta members’ perspective has continued to the present and remains a differentiator from other fraternities. Iota Phi Theta personifies in all its activities the motto, **“Building a Tradition, Not Resting Upon One!”**

SELECTION AND AWARD PROCEDURE

Finalist selection is made by combining the numerical scores (i.e. SAT, ACT, GPA, etc.) and the Scholarship Committee's ratings for subjective items (i.e. essays, outside activities, etc.). The application is reviewed by the committee and will select two students to receive:

ONE-TIME BOOK SCHOLARSHIP OF \$500.00

The following factors are considered when scoring applications:

- Accuracy and completeness of application
- Academic achievement
- Extracurricular activities
- GPA and SAT/ACT score
- Quality of essay

All applicants will be notified by phone and/or email of their status at the completion of each phase of the competition. If for any reason a winner does not accept or qualify for the award, the next highest scoring applicant will be offered the award. Payment of the award will be made by the Omicron Omega Chapter of Iota Phi Theta® Fraternity, Inc. directly to the winner's chosen college or university prior to the time of registration.

SCHOLARSHIP PACKET INCLUDES:

- **SCHOLARSHIP REQUIRMENTS / APPLICATION PROCEDURE**
- **SELECTION AND AWARD PROCEDURES**
- **ONE TEACHER / COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATION**

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD ELLIGIBILTY:

To be eligible for **Excellence in Leadership Award**, applicants much:

- Be a graduating senior accepted into a college or university
- Have a high academic achievement record, which includes at least a 2.5 GPA
- Attach SAT or ACT Scores
- Have an excellent conduct record and high leadership potential
- Financial need will be considered

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

- Complete the application form titled "Excellence in Leadership Award"
- Request a current transcript from your school
- 500 to 700-word typed essay
- Have at least two recommendation letters mailed to the required address.

ONE TEACHER/CONSELOR RECOMMENDATION

Submit Applications via email to:

OmicronOmeгалotas@gmail.com

NO LATER THAN May 1st, 2025

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE
MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP

Student Application

Please read this form carefully and answer each question completely. Your application will not be processed if all the questions are not answered in full. Mark **N/A** for items not applicable.

Scholarship Applicant Information

Full Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

Telephone # _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Information

Full Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

Telephone # _____

Educational Information

High School Name _____

High School Address _____

High School City, State, Zip _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average? _____ Class Rank _____

Educational Information (con't)

Where do you plan to attend college? _____

College or University Address _____

Have you applied for admission? _____ Been accepted? _____

Proposed Major? _____ ACT or SAT Score _____

Activities/Organizations

Please list activities/organizations in or out of school. Indicate the office(s) held and accomplishment(s) while in office.

Honors & Awards

Please list any honor and awards received in or out of school.

Work & Volunteer Experience

Include both paid and volunteer work experience, and job duties performed.

Provide a 500-word, double spaced essay answering the following:

1. Describe what you consider qualities of a good leader.
2. Give specific examples of your role as a leader.
3. Explain how your leadership initiated positive change within you or others.

Applicant's Signature & Date

Applicant's Parent/Guardian Signature & Date

Deadline for receipt of Application:
May 1st, 2025



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