



## **2026 LILLIE P. W. STEPHENS SCHOLAR-ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

This scholarship is given in memory of Lillie P. W. Stephens by her family to assist students who embrace her academic and athletic ideals with attaining their college dreams.

Born Lillie Pearl Williamson on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, 1935, she grew up in Lake City, FL in a large, southern, Black family. She attended and graduated from Richardson High School followed by two years at Bethune-Cookman College, now Bethune-Cookman University, an HBCU. She completed her undergraduate education at the University of Buffalo, a private institution that later became part of the SUNY system. She was the first African American woman to receive a degree in physical education from that school. She married Edward Stephens and had two children prior to returning to the University at Buffalo for her Master's degree in Educational Administration.

In her professional life, Mrs. Stephens began her teaching career as a physical education teacher. She worked in the Buffalo, Williamsville and Niagara Falls school districts. Before transitioning into the role of administration. As an administrator, she was responsible for the oversight of a granted program, the Emergency School Aid Act (ESAA) program for nearly a decade before being selected as the assistant principal of Trott Vocational High School and later LaSalle High School. Her culminating role as an educator was that of principal at Niagara Falls' 60<sup>th</sup> Street School. She was the first Black woman to be hired as physical education teacher and administrator within the Niagara Falls School District.

Mrs. Stephens' leadership and organizational involvement included Board Member in local, regional and national organizations and many honors and awards. To name a few: elected president of the UB Alumni Association, founding member of the National Committee for School Desegregation (NCSD), member of the Clinton Administration committee traveling to evaluate school districts for desegregation compliance, Black Educators' Association of Western New York Educator of the Year Award, Spotlight on Women's Award from the Coalition of 100 Black Women's Buffalo Chapter, life member of the NAACP, founding member of the Buffalo Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., board member of Magnet Schools of America, life member of Family and Children's Service of Niagara County, member of Zonta International of Amherst, and former head of five Masonic houses within the Prince Hall Masonic family. Through all of her many areas of involvement, her membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was one of her proudest accomplishments.

Mrs. Stephens was fiercely dedicated to justice and equality for women, particularly in athletics and employment. This scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating Black, female, scholar-athlete from a public high school in Western New York.

This application must be submitted (hard copy or electronic) to be considered for the incentive award. Only completed applications that are received on time will be reviewed.

**APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: (first, M.I., last) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_@ \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cumulative H.S. GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ (100% OR 4.0 scale)  
Intended College: \_\_\_\_\_  
Intended Major: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT ATHLETIC INFORMATION**

Please share information regarding the sports you have played in high school and the positions in those sports, including travel/tournament/regional teams:

SPORT	POSITION

**HONORS AND AWARDS (ACADEMIC & ATHLETIC) YOU HAVE RECEIVED DURING HIGH SCHOOL:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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**CAREER GOALS/ASPIRATIONS**

Please share what you would like to do after earning your degree:

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**ESSAY**

Please write an essay (300-400 words) that tells what YOU feel still needs to be done for female athletes to receive access to the same resources that male athletes receive:

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**INCENTIVE AWARD DEADLINE:** This completed application (pp. 2-3) and an unopened, official transcript from your high school must be mailed (**postmarked no later than Thursday, April 30, 2026**) to:

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Gamma Phi Omega Chapter  
ATTENTION: LPWS Scholarship Committee  
P. O. Box 3231  
Buffalo, NY 14240**

Eligible applicants will be contacted for an interview. **Interviews will take place on the evenings of Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.** The award will be announced at a celebratory reception on the evening of Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

By signing below, you are verifying that you have read all of the application requirements and you are submitting a completed application and requested an official transcript from your high school to be considered for this award. **Incomplete applications will be disqualified.** Funds will be disbursed after verification of acceptance and attendance at an accredited college or university.

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SIGNATURE

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DATE

This application can also be completed electronically:

<https://forms.gle/5KxJDsbFSLZgj1KB9>

