



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, INC.

FLUSHING-NORTH SHORE BRANCH

P.O. BOX 690581, EAST ELMHURST, NY 11369

EMAIL: NAUWFNSSCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM

## 2025 NAUW Flushing-North Shore Branch Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman Scholarship Award

November 2024

Dear Applicant,

**The National Association of University Women Inc. (NAUW) Flushing-North Shore Branch (FNS) seeks qualified and motivated women to apply for the 2025 Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman Scholarship Award.**



This award is named in recognition of trailblazer and pioneer pilot Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman. Coleman was the first African American woman to earn a pilot license and the first person of African American descent to gain an international pilot license.

This award encompasses the unwavering spirit of a determined African American woman, destined to exceed the racial and gender barriers of her time. Her legacy continues today as women from all backgrounds embark on a career path even to this day that is largely dominated by men.

Bessie Coleman was born in Atlanta, Texas, on January 26, 1892, the tenth of thirteen children. Bessie saved her money and in 1910 took her savings and enrolled in the Colored Agricultural and Normal University in Langston, Oklahoma. Bessie completed only one term before she ran out of money and was forced to return to Texas.

Bessie escaped the oppressive Jim Crow south and headed to Chicago. Taking her cue from brother John's teasing remarks about French women flying and having careers, Bessie decided she would become a flier. Bessie's yearning to "amount to something" was a driving force in her goal to become a pilot. Bessie secured funding from several sources and received a passport with English and French visas and departed for France in November 1920. She completed the ten-month course at the Ecole d'Aviation des Freres Caudon at Le Crotoy in the Somme in seven months. She learned to fly in a French Nieuport Type 82 and her maneuvers included "tail spins, banking and looping the loop." She received her license from the renowned Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) on June 15, 1921.

Her first appearance was in an air show on September 3, 1922, at Curtiss Field near New York City. Bessie used borrowed planes to continue exhibition flying and parachute jumping. As she had often done in other U.S. locations, Bessie refused to perform unless the audiences were desegregated. Sadly, Coleman took her tragic last flight on April 30, 1926, in Jacksonville, Florida when she and her mechanic took the plane up for a test flight. Once aloft, the plane malfunctioned and the mechanic lost control of the plane. Sadly, both Bessie and her mechanic perished in the crash. About 10,000 mourners paid their last respects to the first African American woman aviator, filing past her coffin in Chicago South's Side.

Her dream of a flying school for African Americans became a reality when William J. Powell established the *Bessie Coleman Aero Club* in Los Angeles, California in 1929. As a result of being affiliated, educated, or inspired by the *Bessie Coleman Aero Club*, flyers like the Five Blackbirds, the Flying Hobos (James Banning and Thomas Allen), the Tuskegee Airmen, Cornelius Coffey, John Robison, Willa Brown, and Harold Hurd continued to make Bessie Coleman's dream a reality and has continued her legacy. In 1931, black pilots from Chicago instituted an annual fly over of her grave. In 1977, a group of African American women pilots established the Bessie Coleman Aviators Club. In 1992, a Chicago City Council resolution requested that the U.S. Postal Service issue a Bessie Coleman stamp. The resolution noted that "Bessie Coleman continues to inspire untold thousands, even millions of young persons with her sense of adventure, her positive attitude, and her determination to succeed."

\* Biography retrieved from: <http://www.bessiecoleman.com>



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**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, INC. FLUSHING-NORTH SHORE BRANCH (NAUW-FNS) IS SEEKING QUALIFIED FEMALE APPLICANTS FOR ITS 2025 ELIZABETH "BESSIE" COLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD. THIS AWARD IS GIVEN ONCE TO A VAUGHN COLLEGE STUDENT WHO MEETS THE CRITERIA LISTED BELOW. A COMPLETED APPLICATION IS DUE ON OR BEFORE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025. PLEASE READ THE PACKET CAREFULLY AND ADHERE TO ALL LISTED INSTRUCTIONS.**

### **PHASE 1- CRITERIA**

1. Must be a full time matriculated Sophomore OR Junior level student at Vaughn College.
2. Must provide proof of US citizenship or legal permanent residence.
3. **Must be a woman of African American OR African descent.**
4. Must have a minimum of 2.75 G.P.A. on a 4.0 scale.

### **PHASE 2 - INTERVIEW**

Once the application has been screened, all applicants who submit a complete application packet **MUST** appear for an in-person interview at Vaughn College, dressed in business attire, at a date and time determined by the Scholarship Committee.

### **PHASE 3 - AWARD PRESENTATION**

If selected to receive a scholarship, your attendance is required, along with an acceptance speech at our in-person Scholarship Gala: **NAUW Flushing-North Shore Branch Scholarship Awards Gala**

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 7:30pm - 1:00am

SAND CASTLE

505 Franklin Avenue, Franklin Square, NY 11010

### **THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION PACKET MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL BY FEBRUARY 1, 2025.**

Please adhere to all the instructions indicated on the application.

- A Completed and Signed Student Application
- Attach the following documents to the application:
  - 2 Essays (750-1,000 words each): Personal Statement and Volunteerism Essay
  - 1 Cumulative Vaughn College Transcript
  - 1 Letter of Recommendation from a Teacher, or Dean, or Academic Advisor\*
  - 1 Volunteer Service Recommendation Letter\*
  - Resume
  - Passport Photo or Yearbook Picture or Professional Headshot
- 1 official copy of proof of legal residence from the list below:
  - United States Birth Certificate
  - United States Passport
  - United States Naturalization Certificate
  - United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Permanent Resident Card

\*Can be submitted with the application packet, or directly from the recommender's official email address **ON OR BEFORE** the February 1st deadline.



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## STUDENT APPLICATION

### A) Applicant Information: (TYPE OR PRINT NEATLY)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sophomore / Junior          Major/ Degree Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

School Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ City of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK ONLY 1 BOX:  US Citizen /  Permanent United States Resident

### C) Employment or Volunteer Work (Please also attach resume)

Company/Organization	Position	Dates of Employment/Volunteer Service

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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### **STUDENT PERSONAL STATEMENT**

**(D) SUBMIT A TYPED, SINGLE SPACED, 750-1000 WORD ESSAY (TIMES-12 FONT). PLACE YOUR NAME AT THE TOP OF EACH PAGE OF YOUR ESSAY.**

**DIRECTIONS: ANSWER (1) ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

1. Elizabeth “Bessie” Coleman was a trailblazer and pioneer pilot. Coleman was the first African American woman to earn a pilot license and the first person of African American descent to gain an international pilot license. Explain your decision to attend Vaughn College and explain how the history or achievement of Elizabeth “Bessie” Coleman influenced your academic and/or career goals. Explain how your experiences are similar or are different from Bessie Coleman’s journey/achievement?
2. Recount an incident or time when you experienced a challenge. How did it affect you, how did you overcome this challenge, and what lessons did you learn? Was there someone that helped you overcome this challenge and explain how they helped you? (NOTE: Growing and maturing is about learning from our challenges).
3. Describe your knowledge of the National Association of University Women Inc. and the Flushing-North Shore Branch. If you have attended or participated in any events hosted by the Flushing-North Shore Branch or any branch of the National Association of University Women Inc., please explain.



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**STUDENT VOLUNTEERISM ESSAY**

**(E) SUBMIT A TYPED, SINGLE SPACED, 750-1000 WORD ESSAY (TIMES-12 FONT).  
PLACE YOUR NAME AT THE TOP OF EACH PAGE OF YOUR ESSAY.**

On September 28, 2024, the Global Citizen Festival was held on the Great Lawn in Central Park in New York City, USA. Tickets to the Global Citizen Festival events were awarded to participants who committed acts of volunteerism.

Please describe your commitment to volunteer work and how it has impacted your community and your life.



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### **COLLEGE PROFESSOR, OR ACADEMIC ADVISOR, OR DEAN** **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

F) STUDENT MUST SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THEIR COLLEGE PROFESSOR, ACADEMIC ADVISOR, OR DEAN, WHO IS WRITING THE RECOMMENDATION LETTER. THE RECOMMENDATION LETTER MUST BE TYPED ON OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD, WITH THE PROFESSOR'S, OR ACADEMIC ADVISOR'S, OR DEAN'S SIGNATURE. SUBMIT THE RECOMMENDATION LETTER ELECTRONICALLY WITH THE APPLICATION, OR SEPARATELY, FROM THE SCHOOL'S EMAIL ADDRESS TO: NAUWFNSSCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM **ON OR BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 1, 2025 DEADLINE.**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLEGE PROFESSOR, OR ACADEMIC ADVISOR, OR DEAN:**

Your letter must attest to the applicant's academic/educational abilities and accomplishments. The applicant **CANNOT** be related to the person writing this letter of recommendation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



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## VOLUNTEER SERVICE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

**I) STUDENT MUST SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE LEADER WRITING THE RECOMMENDATION LETTER. THE LETTER MUST BE TYPED ON OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDER'S SIGNATURE AND SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY EITHER WITH THE APPLICATION, OR SEPARATELY, FROM THE SERVICE LEADER'S OFFICIAL EMAIL ADDRESS TO [NAUWFNSSCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NAUWFNSSCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM) ON OR BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 1, 2025 DEADLINE.**

### INSTRUCTIONS TO SERVICE LEADERS:

Writer must attest to the applicant's personal character and commitment to volunteer service activities. Students CANNOT be related to the person who is writing this letter of recommendation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Service Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_





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## APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST

**ALL ITEMS LISTED BELOW MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE APPLICATION PACKET FOR SUBMISSION OR WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM CONSIDERATION. PLACE AN X IN EACH BOX BEFORE E-MAILING:**

- 1 Completed and Signed Application**
- 1 Personal Statement Essay (750-1000 words, single space, Times New Roman 12 font)**
- 1 Volunteerism Essay (750-1000 words, single space, Times New Roman 12 font)**
- 1 Cumulative Vaughn College Transcript**
- 1 Teacher, OR Guidance Counselor, OR College Advisor, Recommendation Letter\***
- 1 Volunteer Service Recommendation Letter\***
- 1 Passport photo OR yearbook picture OR Professional headshot (submitted with application)**
- 1 Official copy of proof of legal residence from the list below:**
  - **United States Birth Certificate**
  - **United States Passport**
  - **United States Naturalization Certificate**
  - **United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Permanent Resident Card**
- Resume**
- Attach this CHECKLIST sheet with your completed application packet before Emailing.**

**\*Can be submitted with the application packet, or directly from the recommender's official email address ON OR BEFORE February 1, 2025.**

**SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET BY:**

**February 1, 2025**

VIA E-MAIL: [NAUWFNSSCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NAUWFNSSCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM)

Attn: Scholarship Committee

NAUW Flushing-North Shore Branch