

# “Part of the Promise”

## Scholarship overview

The “Part of the Promise” Scholarship Program aims to support a graduating senior from each of Norfolk Public Schools’ five high schools. Several seniors from each school will be nominated by members of their school’s Counseling Department. The nominees will have been nominated due to their honorable character and commitment to becoming a beacon of hope and change in their community. As well as the consideration of their decision to further their education and skills by attending an accredited HBCU or vocational school after graduating in May 2025.

This year’s “Part of the Promise” Scholarship program will distribute a single year \$1,000 scholarship award to five finalists. This award aims to aid these seniors in their journey as they take the next steps toward improving their life and the lives of those around them. [\[Application Linked HERE\]](#)

## Eligibility Criteria

1. **Higher Educational Pursuits** - Candidates must be pursuing a degree or certification from an accredited four year Historically Black College or University or Vocational program.
2. **Actively Achieving High Educational Standards** - Candidates must currently have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
3. **Home Income Consideration** - Candidates Parental or Guardian Home income must be below \$100,000.

## Document Requirements

1. **Essay Completion** - Candidates must use the assigned prompt to showcase their personal story and hopes for their future. A candidate’s essay must be formatted to be double space, 12 point font, and a maximum of 2 pages.
2. **Official Document Requirements** - Candidates must submit a copy of their official current high school transcript (not dated prior to January 2025), a copy of their official college, university, or vocational program acceptance letter. Lastly, they must submit three letters of recommendation (at least one must be from a Norfolk Public School’s Counselor).

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3. **Submission By Deadline** - All applications must be submitted through the program's online application form, no later than April 2nd at 5:00pm EST.

[\[Application Linked HERE\]](#)

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## Essay Prompt

April C. Harmon bloomed from humble beginnings. Born and raised in a small town in North Carolina, April grew up in a home that had limited traditional wealth but was overflowing with a wealth of love. The love that she received from her single mother and eight older siblings, ensured that April knew she was worthy of kindness, love, and respect regardless of her circumstances. While the world outside her home would often count her out and tell to expect little out of her life, it was their support and love that always uplifted her.

During April's junior year of high school, April's school counselor told her that she would probably end up working at the town's local factory mill. Or, if she was lucky, attended the local community college.

That day, April made a promise to herself that she would not let someone else dictate her story. She went on to earn her bachelor's and master's degree from North Carolina Central University and her Educational Leadership degree from Old Dominion University. A promise she'd made to herself, became a promise she wanted to share with others. With this mission in her heart, April C. Harmon became a school counselor, and dedicated over 30 years to helping students realize their potential and achieve their dreams.

Prior to her death in 2022, she'd become the Senior Coordinator of School Counseling Services for Norfolk Public Schools. This promotion meant more than just a title change, but gave her an opportunity to plant even more positive seeds within so many more students. Still, April never took sole credit for these or any of her accomplishments. She'd often tell people that none of her accomplishments would've been achieved without her God, family, friends, and each person who'd been willing to give her a hand when she needed it most.

As you embark on a new life post graduation, take time to reflect and applaud yourself for hurdles you've overcome to reach this point. Be sure to thank those who've helped you make it this far. Most importantly, as you continue to grow and succeed, don't forget to extend a helping hand to the next generation. Remember, when you plant good seeds today you're promised a better future tomorrow.

### Essay Prompt Questions:

*In your own words, write about a time someone counted you out or underestimated you. Please use the below questions as a guide to fully share your story and what this scholarship would mean to you.*

1. When did someone count you out?
2. Who was someone who helped you get through that negativity?
3. What promise did that person make to you [or did you make to yourself], that has helped you overcome the negativity from being counted out?

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4. Where do you see yourself in the next several years, after obtaining your collegiate degree, vocation degree, or vocation certification.
  5. How would receiving this scholarship help you to make a difference in your community or for the next generation?