

William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation



The William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation

Education Knowledge Excellence

262 Main Street, Park Forest, IL 60466

Telephone: 708-747-6542

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Join Us For The WSESF Winter Fundraiser

Join the William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation (WSESF) for an Evening of Food, DJ, Live Music and Fun, on February 21, 2016, 5:00-8:00 pm at the Sapphire 305 Main Street, Park Forest Illinois. Cost \$37.00 per ticket. For ticket information please see a Board Member or Contact the office.

WSESF Writing Workshop

Do you know any High School students who would like to improve their writing skills? Writing skills can be the ticket to better academic achievement. Enroll your high school student in the William Simpson Educational Foundation Writing Workshop. The workshop is free. Space is limited. March 19, 2016, 262 Main Street, Park Forest Illinois. Contact the office to Register

2016 William Simpson Essay Scholarship Announcement

The William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce the 18th Annual Essay Competition. The William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation was established in 1989 to motivate *African American* high school students to expand their writing skills and promote cultivating writing skills. Essays will be judged and the winners will be awarded \$1,000.00 scholarships.

The William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation is seeking juniors and seniors from participating high schools to enter the Essay Competition this year. To achieve this goal, the Foundation is soliciting your help in distributing the application information to eligible candidates. For more details visit: <http://wsef.org>

William Simpson (1925-1996)

William Simpson cared about the social plight of humanity. Mr. Simpson spoke out through his literature, editorials and written commentaries. He was an avid writer and articulated many of the inequities of society, locally and worldly; he educated his community and stood up for the downtrodden.

Mr. Simpson was a longstanding resident of Park Forest, Illinois and a pillar of the community. He was former president of the Chicago Far-South Suburban Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. Following his death in 1996, the Chicago South Suburban Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. adopted a resolution calling for the creation of an Essay Scholarship Fund in memory of Mr. Simpson. The William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation was established and incorporated as an independent tax-exempt Not for Profit foundation to motivate and encourage young writers by offering scholarships.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Words of Wisdom on Education



“To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction....

The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr., The Purpose of Education

WSESF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 21, 2016
5:00pm-8:00 pm
Winter Fundraiser
The Sapphire Room
305 Main Street Park Forest

March 5, 2016
Essay Applications
Distributed

March 19, 2016
Writers Workshop
262 Main Street Park Forest

April 2016
Stay at Home Tea Fundraiser

April 30, 2016
Essay Applications Due

June 18, 2016
9:00 am-12:00 pm
Scholarship Breakfast
Freedom Hall Park Forest

Summer Fundraiser/TBA

2015-2016 WSESF BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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The Large Racial Gap in High School Graduation Rates Is Slowly Eroding

New [data](#) from the U.S. Department of Education show that for students of all races, the high school graduation rate has reached an all-time high. For the 2013-14 academic year, 82 percent of all eligible students graduated from high school. This is the fourth consecutive year that high school graduation rates have increased.

When we break the data down by race, we see that the Black student high school graduation rate in 2013-14 was 72.5 percent. This was up from 67 percent in the 2010-11 academic year. For Whites, the high school graduation rate in 2013-14 was 87.2 percent. This is nearly 15 percentage points higher than the rate for Blacks.

However, since the 2010-11 academic year the Black-White gap in high school graduation rates has declined from 17 percentage points to 14.8 percentage points.

Source [Racial Gap, Research & Studies](#) on December 28, 2015