**Jerry L. Adams Scholarship
of the Berkeley Community Fund**

***“Keep your eyes on the prize.” – Jerry L. Adams***

The Jerry L. Adams Scholarship commemorates Mr. Adams’ extraordinary commitment to thousands of community college students during his 35+ year career with the Peralta Community College District. This scholarship is intended to keep his spirit of community and political activism, as well as commitment and collaboration, in the forefront of future generations.

Mr. Adams, an African-American educator from Talladega, Alabama, was an inspiration to all of these who came in contact with him through his passion for education, his advocacy for civil and human rights for all people, and his unflinching commitment to underrepresented individuals. This scholarship was created as an encouragement to individuals to pursue their goals while developing skills that can make positive changes in their communities and in the lives of their peers.

This scholarship is designed to assist first generation Berkeley City College students as they strive to achieve their academic goals while enrolled at BCC. It is specifically for students who are in the process of completing their associate degree or certificate of completion. Applicants must have begun their study at the basic mathematics level or pre-algebra level. Applications must also demonstrate involvement in community service activities. This scholarship is not open to students who have a college degree at the associate degree level or higher.

**Non-Discrimination Policy**

It is the policy of the Jerry L. Adams Scholarship to make financial awards without regard to race, creed, religion, color, ancestry, marital status, national origin, age, sex orientation, physical or mental disability, or any other non-education-related characteristic.

**Common Student Eligibility Criteria and Checklist for All Applicants (Continuing and Graduating Students)**

Three awards are made from this scholarship fund. Two $500 scholarships are available to continuing students who are in the process of completing an AA/AS degree, a Certificate of Completion or course work leading to transfer to a four year institution. One $2,000 scholarship is available for a student who is graduating from BCC and is transferring to a four year institution.

All applicants must:

* Be currently enrolled in at least six (6) semester units at BCC; however, graduating students may have completed their course-work in the previous fall term.
* Have completed a minimum of 12 units at BCC. Semester units completed must include either ENGLISH 267, 268, 248 or MATH 250, 251, 253, or an equivalent course with a final grade earned of “C” or better within the Peralta District.
* Have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.50.
* Be pursuing an Associate of Arts or Science degree or Certificate of Completion.
* Write an essay of 500 words or less stating academic and career goals, outstanding achievement, obstacles that you have overcome, include community service work, and/or personal triumphs.
* Provide two letters of recommendation.
* Demonstrate financial need. Applicants must have completed the 2014-15 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* in advance, as the Federal Need Analysis Methodology will be used to determine financial need.

***Complete and submit application packet by 5:00pm, April 1st, 2014***

*(see details on last page).*

**Additional Criteria for Graduating Transfer Students Only**

The full award will be paid upon proof of full-time enrollment status at a four-year college or university in the fall semester of 2014.

In addition to the criteria listed above, AA/AS graduating transfer students must:

* Be graduating in the spring 2014 semester. Students who completed their coursework for the AA/AS degree in fall 2013 also are eligible.
* Plan to be enrolled at a four-year college or university in fall 2014.

**How to Apply**

1. **Application**
Fill out all pages of the application form completely. Use blue or black ink if you write out your application.
2. **Essay**
Submit your 500-word typed essay on a separate sheet of paper.
3. **References**
Ask two people to write a letter of recommendation. At least one letter should be written by a teacher, advisor, or counselor who is familiar with your academic abilities. Your references should be familiar with your personal situation and your educational goals (e.g., an employer, a coworker, minister). **Friends or relatives should not write your letters.**
4. **Educational Information**

Provide copies of your transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable) and a printout of current classes.

1. **Submitting the Application**
Submit **two** complete sets of your application to Paula Coil, Transfer and Career Center Coordinator, Room 243, Berkeley City College, 2050 Center Street, Berkeley, CA. Submit your original completed packet, plus one copy. Organize your documents so that each set is in the following order: 1) application, 2) essay, 3) two letters of recommendation, 4) transcript, 5) printout of current classes, and 6) proof of financial need. For the latter, submit the latest Federal Pell Grant transaction or ISIR transaction.
2. **Notification of Selection**

Initial screening will be conducted by the BCC Scholarship Committee and all applicants deemed by the committee to meet the scholarship standards will be referred to the Berkeley Community Fund. The Scholarship Committee of the Berkeley Community Fund will interview scholarship finalists in late April. Awardees will be notified by mail and by phone. Names of awardees will also be posted at Berkeley City College and on the Berkeley Community Fund website. Recipients additionally will be acknowledged in the Berkeley Community Fund Annual Awards Dinner Program and invited by the BCC administration to attend the dinner as guests sitting at the College table. They will also be guests and honorees at the BCC Scholarship Reception.

1. **Checklist (Two Sets of Packets)**

Prior to submission, applicants should check to make sure they have included the following items in each of the two packets:

\_\_\_\_\_ Application form

\_\_\_\_\_ Essay

\_\_\_\_\_ Two letters of recommendation

\_\_\_\_\_ Transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable)

\_\_\_\_\_ Printout of current classes
\_\_\_\_\_ Proof of financial need (most recent SAR/ISIR)

Missing documents, incomplete forms, or a missing application set will disqualify you from this scholarship. To ensure your application is complete, we strongly recommend mailing all documents in one envelope.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: MONDAY, April 1, 2014 by 5:00 p.m. to:**

**Paula Coil – Transfer Center
Berkeley City College, Room 243**

**2050 Center Street**

**Berkeley, CA 94704**