



Bel Alton High School Alumni Association CDC

2026 Scholarship Program

In honor of its founders, the Bel Alton High School Alumni Association is proud to offer scholarships to any Charles County public high school senior, graduating in 2026, and to any non-Charles County public high school senior, graduating in 2026 and is related to a BAHSAA member.

Our founders saved an important part of Black cultural history in Charles County. They boldly interceded with the Charles County government in the late 1980s to stop its planned demolition of our historic Bel Alton High School building, raised six million dollars to restore the building, and ran a community center in the building from 2008 to 2015.

The Bel Alton High School was one of two segregated high schools that offered a secondary-level education for the 'colored children' of Charles County. The school opened in 1938, during the pre-WWII 'Jim Crow' era, and ran until the County integrated schools in 1966.

The Bel Alton High School is the only **Historically Black High School** in Charles County whose original building structure is still fully intact. The school building and the black community it served are important parts of Charles County's heritage. The National Park Service listed Bel Alton High School on the National Register of Historic Places in 2025.

The Bel Alton High School Alumni Association, in honor of its founders and the cultural history of the Bel Alton High School, is pleased to offer scholarships to help students defray some of the cost of pursuing their educational goals.

The BAHSAA Scholarship Program also helps to preserve, promote, and share the cultural history of historic Bel Alton High School and the Black community that it served.



FOUNDING MEMBERS

Front row (l to r): Mary B. Thomas, Cecelia Spinks, Joan Jones, Jane Short, John Smothers, Theresa Johnson
Second row (l to r): Annie Smothers, Joan Woodland
Third row (l to r): Shirley Bush, Mary E. Whalen, Elva Yates, Barbara Johnson
Fourth row (l to r): William Brown, Austin Leroy Johnson, Pearl Yates, Jerome Short

BAHSAACDC

Officers

Matthews N. Wills, Chair
Andre P. Smith, Vice Chair
Joseph Johnson, Treasurer
Mary E. Whalen, Secretary

2026 Scholarship Committee

Joyce M. Brown, Chair
Ina Broadnax, Co-Chair
Lisa Ambers
Joseph Johnson
Andre P. Smith
Matthews N. Wills

2026 BAHS AACDC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

1. Any Charles County public high school senior, graduating in 2026, or any non-Charles County public high school senior, graduating in 2026 and is related to a BAHSAA member.
2. Enrollment in a HBCU or the College of Southern Maryland.
3. Minimum 2.5 GPA.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. **Monday, April 6, 2026 is the deadline** for submitting applications and all required documents. Late applications WILL NOT be considered.
2. The entire application form must be typed and be submitted by the applicant.
3. An application that is incomplete, unintelligible, or submitted in a graphic format, to include jpg, jpeg, png, webp, HEIC, will not be accepted.
4. A **most recent** 2026 official high school transcript **MUST** be submitted by Monday, **April 6, 2026**.
5. An applicant who does not respond to a request from the BAHSAA Scholarship Committee by a designated deadline will be disqualified for consideration.
6. All applications and communications must be emailed to bahsaascholarships@gmail.com.

BAHSAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

1. All communication from the scholarship committee will be sent to the applicant's email address. Applicants are responsible for checking for emails from the scholarship committee.
2. Scholarship awards are contingent upon enrollment in an accredited Historically Black College or University (HBCU) or the College of Southern Maryland.
3. Each applicant will be notified by email of the scholarship committee's decision to award a scholarship.
4. All scholarship award decisions by the BAHSAA Scholarship Committee will be final.
5. In order to receive the scholarship award, the awardee must present proof of enrollment for the academic year.
6. The BAHSAA Scholarship Committee will make checks payable to the awardees for college-related expenses. An award is for one year.
7. Awardees may be asked for permission to use their images in BAHS AACDC scholarship promotions.
8. Scholarship awardees may be requested to attend a BAHS AACDC scholarship event to accept their scholarship awards.

2026 BAHSAACDC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please provide the information requested below. Insert N/A if not applicable:

Name: (First)_____ (MI)_____ (Last)_____

Address:_____

Phone Number:_____ Email Address:_____

High School:_____ Graduation Date:_____

Parent/Guardian Name:_____

Parent/Guardian Address:_____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number:_____ Email Address: _____

Check institution attending in fall of 2026:

College/University:_____ Classification: _____

Address:_____

Major:_____ Degree pursued:_____

Attending: Full-time Part-time

College of Southern Maryland

Major:_____ Degree pursued:_____

Address:_____

Field of Study:_____

Have you received other scholarships or financial aid for the 2026 academic year?

Yes No

Are you related to a member of BAHSAACDC? Yes No

If yes, please provide the name(s) and relationship(s).

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II. SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

Offices held (list top three from 2024 to present):

Honors (list top three from 2024 to present):

School Activities (list top three from 2024 to present):

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III. COMMUNITY SERVICE

List top five and briefly describe your community service activities NOT INCLUDING SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (from 2024 to present).

IV. CAREER GOALS

On a separate sheet write a 250-to-500-word essay that describes your goals, your plans for the future, and what you would like to accomplish after you receive your degree. How will receiving a scholarship from the BAHSAACDC help you achieve your goals?

V. YOUR PERSPECTIVE

On a separate sheet, in 250 to 500 of your own words, give your perspective on the role that Booker T. Washington and Julious Rosenwald played in enhancing education for Black children in Charles County and the State of Maryland.

Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

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PROFILE CHECKLIST

Please use the list below to assist with submitting a complete packet. Check each item included. Submit checklist with your application.

1. Profile Checklist Page
2. Personal Information
3. School Experiences
4. Community Service
5. Career Goals Essay
6. “Your Perspective” Essay
7. Official Transcript
8. Original Picture (not scanned or copied)

Applicant’s Name: _____ Date: _____