

Northern Illinois University Black Alumni Council Fanny Ruth Patterson Scholarship Award

Background and Purpose

The Northern Illinois University Black Alumni Council (NIUBAC) is located in Chicago and has been in existence since 1976. Currently, our efforts are to continue to support African American students at NIU and serve as a resource of advancing NIU African American alumni.

Fanny Ruth Patterson was born on August 14, 1892. She was a graduate of Hinckley High School and at age 21, Fanny entered Northern Illinois University, which was then known as the Northern Illinois State Normal School (NISNS). While attending NISNS, Fanny took classes in arithmetic, reading, grammar, methods, and a state course. Upon graduation in 1915, she was noted by then-NIU President John Watson Cook as *“an excellent girl, having good looks, good taste, extreme modesty of demeanor and a good mind”*. Fanny went downstate to teach for over four years. Fanny died of pulmonary tuberculosis on February 17, 1920, at the young age of 28. She was brave, unique, and an innovator at NIU. She was also the first black student to graduate from NIU.

Fanny Ruth Patterson Scholarship Award Criteria

The Fanny Ruth Patterson Scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to deserving, qualified students who:

- are in at least the third year of school (minimum 70 hours);
- maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA;
- are active in campus affairs (SA, NBC, Black Greek organization, etc.).

Students are also required to submit a 500-word essay on the importance of obtaining a degree and a copy of unofficial transcripts. All entries will be reviewed by a scholarship committee and a monetary award will be given to the top candidate(s). The minimum award will be \$500 per candidate.

Fanny Ruth Patterson Scholarship Application Process

Students interested in the Fanny Ruth Patterson Scholarship must first submit the following documentation:

- Attached Application
- Proof of membership in campus activities
- 500-word essay on the importance of obtaining a college degree
- Unofficial transcripts

Preliminary review determines if the required documents have been submitted. Any application without the required documents will not be considered.

Selection process

The Fanny Ruth Patterson Scholarship Award committee is made up of five (5) NIUBAC members that represent a variety of professions and make up a diverse and well-rounded group. The committee begins reviewing the applications submitted shortly after the submission deadline and carefully considers each applicant according to the award criteria. The review process is confidential and there will be no interviewing of applicants.

Selection of the award recipient(s) will be completed in late March and recipient(s) will be notified by April 1, 2009. Each award recipient will be given two (2) free tickets to attend the NIU Black Alumni Gala and receive an Awards Certificate. Funds from the Scholarship Award will be applied to your account at NIU beginning Fall, 2009 semester.

Application Deadline

The final deadline for nomination submission is **March 1, 2009**.

All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted to:

*NIU Black Alumni Council/Fanny Ruth Patterson Scholarship
c/o NIU Alumni Association
Attention: Julie Jancius
231 N. Annie Glidden Rd.
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115*

If you should have any questions, please contact **Michael Pattrick** at (312) 782-9095.

Awards ceremony

The NIU Black Alumni Gala will be held on **Saturday, April 18, 2009**, from 6-11pm, at the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Drive, Chicago, IL. There will be a program honoring the recipient(s) of the Fanny Ruth Patterson Scholarship Award and the NIUBAC Outstanding Alumni Award.

Northern Illinois University Black Alumni Council Fanny Ruth Patterson Scholarship Award Application Form

All fields require a reply.

Part I: Applicant Information	
Full Name	
School Address City/State/Zip	
Home Address City/State/Zip	
Cell/Phone Number	
Email Address	
Major/Minor	
Total Number of hours at NIU	
Cumulative GPA	
Expected Graduation Date	
Part II: Campus Activities	
<i>Example:</i>	
<i>Campus Organization</i>	<i>Northern Black Choir</i>
<i>Position</i>	<i>Director/Directress</i>
<i>Verification Contact</i>	<i>Dr. Eddie Williams</i>
<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>815-753-5555</i>
Campus Organization	
Position	
Verification Contact	
Phone Number	
Campus Organization	
Position	
Verification Contact	
Phone Number	
Part III: Essay	
Award decisions are based heavily on the details you provide in the essay. Please tell us the importance of obtaining a degree. Attach your essay to this application (500-word maximum).	
Part IV: Informed Consent	
<p>I, _____, understand that this application for the Fanny Ruth Patterson Scholarship does not guarantee an award. My application and supporting information will be reviewed by a scholarship committee and I will be notified by email/phone/US Postal mail of their decision to award or deny. I understand that all awards will be distributed by the end of April, 2009. Awards will be applied to my account for the use of tuition, books, or school supplies, etc. at Northern Illinois University and not given to me personally. I also understand that I must reapply for this scholarship annually and I am not guaranteed an award. The NIU Black Alumni Council reserves the right to make the final decision on scholarship awards.</p> <p>Signature _____ Date _____</p>	