



DVL Year 2017

Welcome to Year Four of the Dreamers, Visionaries & Leaders (“DVL”) Legacy Scholarships Program. We are delighted to once again, present awards to outstanding students who are residents of the High Desert. The DVL Scholarship Project has awarded over ten thousand dollars in scholarships since 2014!

Thanks to the generosity of our Donors, the scholarships have grown in number from the original three to five scholarship categories of five hundred dollars each awarded directly to the student to use as she or he may need to begin or to continue a college education.

The DVL Legacy Scholarships are Namesakes and are awarded in memory of four individuals and past and present DVL Honorees who made major contributions to the High Desert Region during their lifetimes. They are

- Dr. Gerard Brown (1921-1998), Pioneer oral surgeon & community leader
- Bishop Nathaniel Ruffin (1934-2009), Faith based community leader & elected official
- Ms. Leona Griner (1932-2012), Artist & naturalist
- Ms. Anna Sugi (1960-2010), Founder of *Today's Woman Foundation* & business woman
- DVL Honorees Award--Multiple previous DVL Awardees for outstanding contributions in entrepreneurialism, visual or performing arts, education, law, military service, community activism.

New this year...

We developed *new application forms* this year for *each* application (unlike in past years where one application was used for all Legacy scholarships).

Each application form now provides specific instructions, *which students should read carefully*, for writing the *original essay* for that Honoree/Namesake's scholarship. Students are reminded that the required essays are to be *original to that application*, not “recycled writings” from other scholarship or college applications.

Applicants will read brief details in the application form about the Namesake of the scholarship award and his or her contributions. Students then will determine which Namesake's description best reflects his or her own interests and inspires aspirations for future study or career plans.

DVL accepts applications and awards the scholarships regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, or social or economic class or religious affiliation.

Please note: While the **Anna Sugi Scholarship for Young Women** is available to female students only who otherwise meet the award criteria, all other scholarships are open to both male and female applicants.

Selection Process

A highly experienced and diverse group of Selectors will review the applications and select the student who best represents the ideals and vision of the DVL Legacy Namesake in that category.

Typically, one scholarship is awarded in each category. Students may apply for scholarship consideration in up to two (2) categories, but they will be awarded a scholarship in only one (1) category.

Legacy Scholarships: Requirements

The following application requirements apply to all Legacy Scholarships. Students, however, are strongly advised to read each application form carefully to ensure that they understand and follow any specific directions for that scholarship. *For example, some scholarships call for examples of student works and provide directions how to submit them which should be followed exactly.*

Eligible Students

The DVL Scholarship Program welcomes applications from students in the High Desert region:

- Who are between the ages of 18 years old and 24 years old; eligible students will be at least 18 years old by December 1, 2016, and no older than 24 years old by July 1, 2016;
- who are graduating high school seniors with a *minimum* 3.00 GPA on a 4.00 scale, or who are continuing enrolled post-secondary students with a *minimum* 2.75 GPA on a 4.00 scale, AND
- who are graduating from *regionally accredited* public or private high schools by July 1, 2017; eligible students include those graduating from charter high schools, religiously affiliated high schools or home schools or home school programs in the High Desert region and which are *regionally accredited*; OR
- who are enrolled in a *regionally accredited* post-secondary institution.
*Note: students enrolled in or planning to attend an institution that is **not** regionally accredited are **not eligible** for consideration for the scholarships.*
- All students must be residents of California for *at least* three (3) years and who are graduating or have graduated from a regionally accredited high school in the High Desert region.

Required documents for students

At least five (5) DVL scholarships will be awarded the 2017 academic year. **Students may apply for a maximum of two (2) Namesake categories of the Legacy Scholarships, but they will be eligible to receive only one (1) scholarship in only (1) category.**

Students will submit the following supporting documents with their applications:

- Separate, completed DVL Legacy Scholarship application for that Honoree;
- *Official High School and/or Official College Transcript.*

A minimum of *at least one but no more than two* letters of reference from a teacher, counselor, high school principal or college instructor, counselor, advisor or administrator who is knowledgeable about the student's academic achievement, community involvement, and future educational or career goals.

Please note: Letters of reference *must be typed* and *must not exceed 300 words*.

Unfortunately, any letter which is not typed or which is over 300 words may not be read by the Review Committee. **Please follow any additional instructions in each application form for letters of reference for that scholarship.**

Immigration Status Undocumented students must submit a *notarized statement* that they have filed an application to legalize their immigration status, or that they will file an application to legalize their immigration status as soon as they are eligible to do so, and that they do not currently hold a valid non-immigrant visa.

High school students also must include a copy of the *acceptance letter* for the regionally accredited school which they will attend in the fall 2017 semester or in the winter or spring semester 2018.

Deferral of attendance beyond the spring semester of 2018 must be requested in writing by the student and shall be reviewed by the Committees for acceptance or denial of the request.

Original Essay Students should follow all directions or guidelines for the original essay in the individual application form.

Post-secondary institution students also must include a letter or document on college or university letterhead from a *college official* (level of counselor, director, or dean or above) affirming the student's *continued enrollment* and *satisfactory academic progress towards graduation*.

Students must list in the application form where it is noted a valid, active E-mail address where they can receive communications including additional instructions from DVL Legacy Scholarships Committees.

We look forward with excitement to reviewing the 2017 DVL Legacy Applications. Like the past three years, we anticipate another group of outstanding young scholars, artists and entrepreneurs from the High Desert who will interpret and implement the visions of the Legacy Scholars for the 21st Century.

If at any time applicants need clarity or information about the legacy scholarships or the process, call office, at 760-242-248, 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, and 9am to 1pm, Saturdays.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Regina Weatherspoon Bell". The signature is written in a dark ink on a light background.

Regina Weatherspoon-Bell
Founder, Executive Director