



Dreamers, Visionaries & Leaders
Legacy Scholarship
DR. GERARD BROWN

APPLICATION PERIOD:
January 2 through March 20, 2026

*All applications must be received by the High Desert Community Foundation no later than 5pm, March 20, 2026. **IMPORTANT: Handwritten, incomplete or late applications will not be considered by the Committee. Scholarship Award amount is \$500.00***

Prior to submitting your application, please read carefully all eligibility requirements for applying for the **Dr. Gerard Brown DVL Legacy Scholarship** at www.dvlproject.com, and the guidelines for writing the personal statement which are included with this application.

For this **Brown Legacy Scholarship**, student applicants will demonstrate achievement or serious interests in medicine or dentistry or in the fields of allied health sciences, including [as examples] nursing, public health, medical social work or community mental health. Of special interest to the Selection Committee will be those students who have had continuous enrollment and successful completion of courses in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Personal Statement

As part of the application for this scholarship, applicants are required to write a personal statement. (*Note: you are cautioned against simply “recycling” personal statement/ essays used for college applications or other scholarships.*)

In 300 typed words or less, describe the influences on your interests or choices in medicine, dentistry, the health sciences or related technologies. These influences—positive or negative—can be an event, an instructor, family members or other impactful sources. Your personal statement should provide insight into your current achievements in the sciences and your expectations for future study and career choices.

Eligible Student Criteria

- Who are between the ages of 18 years old and 24 years old” eligible students will be at least 18 years old by December 30, 2026, and no older than 24 years old by July 1, 2026
- 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* 3.00 GPA on a 4.00 scale, AND
- Who are graduating from *regionally accredited* public or private high schools by July 1, 2026 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 scholarship.*

- 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 HighDesert region.

After you have read the brief description provided about Dr. Brown, *the Legacy Honoree*, complete the application and combine it with the other required materials for submission and mail it to the Committee:

Dreamers, Visionaries & Leaders Legacy Scholarships c/o

High Desert Community Foundation

Post Office Box 2028 Apple Valley, CA 92307

NOTE: Applications must be typed and completely filled out.

Handwritten or incomplete applications will not be considered by the Committee.

Dr. Gerard Brown. D.D.S.

December 8, 1921-December 9, 1998

Personal challenges and social injustice caused young Gerard Brown to remember his grandmother's enduring words of encouragement: "...remain strong and independent, extremely disciplined, and life will have much to offer to those who choose to study, work hard and embrace with zest and commitment the opportunities that present themselves." His grandmother had become an important surrogate for him and his sister after the death of their mother when Gerard was four years old.

He used his intellect and personal courage to forge a personal path to success with joint undergraduate majors in biology and chemistry. After earning degrees in dentistry and maxillofacial surgery, he opened a practice in Washington, D.C. Later, he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1951 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 20 years of service.

His mantra, "...education first, education always...the way to personal advancement and a better life..." helped him to remain open to the new opportunities he would encounter—such as participating in the Montgomery Bus Boycott with Dr. Martin Luther King. This experience solidified Dr. Brown's commitment to the improvement of society through education and non-violent reform of social injustices.

With this commitment to community in mind, he came to Victorville as an oral surgeon, the first African-American oral surgeon in Victorville. The first of many "firsts" would include his being the first African American elected official when he won election to the Victor Valley Union High School Board. He also would be the first African American to be appointed to the San Bernardino Fair Board. With an active dental practice and a growing family, he still found time to serve as Foreman of the San Bernardino Grand Jury, a member of the *Daily Press* Editorial Board, Rotary Club of Victor Valley, Toastmasters, Desert Community United Way and the NAACP.

Dr. Brown remained devoted to his family and to the entire community until his death. One of his favorite projects, however, was the *Read to Me Program* of the Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce because it embodied his mantra for the entire community: "...education first, education always...the way to personal advancement and a better life."

Application for Dr. Gerard Brown Scholarship

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name_____

Gender: Female_____Male_____

Address_____

City_____, CA Zip Code_____

Cell phone_____or Message phone_____

E--mail address_____

2. EDUCATION

Last high school attended_____

Dates attended (Month/ Year)_____Graduate? Yes____No____

School/Institution currently attending or planning to attend_____

Start date or proposed start date_____

Planned course of study education or career goals_____

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3. **Resume.** Include a resume' of two (2) pages or less as part of this application. Note: A resume that exceeds the page requirements may not be considered by the Committee.
 4. **Letter of reference.** Please attach *at least one but no more than two letters* of reference that support your application. **Note: all letters must be typed and must not exceed 300 words. Letters not typed or those which exceed 300 words may not be read by the Committee.**
 5. **Official/Certified Transcripts** are required as part of the application package. Before the scholarship is awarded to the successful applicant, a final Official Transcript will be required to be submitted to DVL. Applicants graduating from high school also must include a "letter of acceptance" from the institution they plan to attend. Applicants currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution must present evidence of "academic progress" from an institutional official *at the counselor level or above from the institution in which they are enrolled.*
 6. **Institution Accreditation.** *For applicants to be eligible for the Legacy Scholarship, all education institutions to be considered by applicants or in which they are enrolled must be "regionally accredited."* Accreditation information usually can be obtained from the Registrar of the institution.
 7. **Personal Statement.** Write an original personal statement as directed in the first part of this application.

Applicant Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification of information may result in termination of my application or of any scholarship award granted to me.

Printed name_____

Signature_____Date_____