



DVL Scholarship Year 2026

WELCOME to the Dreamers, Visionaries & Leaders (“DVL”) Legacy Scholarships Program. Since 2013 we have presented scholarships to outstanding students who are residents of the High Desert.

Thanks to the generosity of our Donors, the scholarships have grown in number and funding. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,500 and are awarded directly to the student to use as he/she/they may need to begin or to continue a college education.

The DVL Legacy Scholarships are Namesakes and are awarded in memory of nine individuals and past/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
- **Garner C. Morris** (1933-2020), Fondly known as “Mr. Victorville” for his passionate leadership as a community advocate.
- **Lauri Amber Diggs**
- **DVL Honorees Award**--Previous DVL Awardees for outstanding contributions in entrepreneurialism, visual or performing arts, education, law, military service & community activism.
- **Dr. Derek & Mrs. Marsha King Millionaire Mind Kids**
- **DVL Southern California Edison STEM Scholarship**

Application Forms:

We developed *application forms* for *each* application.

Each application form now provides specific instructions, *which students should read carefully*, for writing the *original personal statement* for that Honoree/Namesake’s scholarship. Students are reminded that the required personal statement is 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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students may apply for only ONE (1) DVL Legacy scholarship. Multiple applications will cause applicant to be disqualified. It is strongly recommended that students carefully review and select which application they are best suited.

DVL accepts applications and awards the scholarships regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, 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 in ONLY one 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 on how to submit them which should be followed exactly.***

Eligible Student Criteria

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 30, 2026, and no older than 24 years old by July 1, 2026.
- Those 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 High Desert region.

Required documents for students

Students will submit the following supporting documents with their applications:

- Separate, completed DVL Legacy Scholarship application.
- *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 not typed or which is over 300 words may not be read by the Review Committee. **Please follow 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/winter 2026 semester or in the spring semester 2027.

Deferral of attendance beyond the spring semester of 2027 must be requested in writing by the student and shall be reviewed by the Committees for acceptance or denial of the request.

Personal Statement: Students should follow all directions or guidelines for the original personal statement 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 2026 DVL Legacy Applications. As in the past twelve 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) 242-8877, 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.

Respectfully,

Regina Weatherspoon-Bell

Regina Weatherspoon-
Bell DVL Project
Founder/CEO