



MEMORANDUM

TO: Prospective Nominator or Recommender

FROM: Larry A. Griffith
Vice President, UNCF
Gates Millennium Scholars Program

SUBJECT: 2010 Gates Millennium Scholars Program Application Process

Education is one of the greatest gifts anyone can receive. You are invited to help us to identify outstanding students who have significant financial need and demonstrated leadership skills for the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) initiative. The process requires applicants to complete the Gates scholarship application (Nominee Personal Information) form and to have a nominator who is an educator and a recommender who is familiar with their leadership and community service complete the Nominator and Recommender forms respectively. There is no limit to the number of students you may nominate or recommend for the GMS scholarship. One thousand students will be selected based on the following eligibility criteria:

- Are African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American
- Are a citizen/legal permanent resident or national of the United States
- Have attained a cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or earned a GED
- Will be enrolling for the first time at a U.S. accredited college or university as full-time, degree-seeking first year student in the Fall of 2009
- Have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities
- Meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria. (Eligibility for Federal Pell Grant can only be determined through the submission of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Programs.)
- Have all three required forms (Nominee Personal Information Form, Nominator Form and Recommender Form) completed and submitted by the deadline.

Eligible students who apply for the GMS scholarship have the opportunity to attend any U.S. accredited college of their choice, with renewable funding for up to five years in any discipline at the undergraduate level; and for continuing Gates Millennium Scholars, graduate fellowships in the fields of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and science. GMS has funded over 13,000 students and awarded over \$500 million in scholarships since its inception.

GMS has opened the on-line scholarship application for the 2010 selection process. We highly recommend that nomination forms are submitted online at www.gmsp.org. **Scholarship applications must be submitted online by January 11, 2010 by 11:59 p.m. EST or the paper application postmarked on or before January 11, 2010.** Nomination booklets are enclosed, and additional paper copies can be downloaded from the website.

As a part of our outreach efforts, students 8th through 12th grade, parents and counselors can register within the *Online Communities* tab on the homepage at www.gmsp.org. The GMS online communities will provide information on the GMS program, as well as provide information and techniques to prepare students for college and the GMS application process.

If you have any questions about the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, please contact us via telephone at 1-877-690-GMSP (4677) or by e-mail at contactus@gmsp.org.