

The Michael V. Boyd '79, '87 Memorial Scholarship

Sponsored by:

The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations
Binghamton University

In Fall 1989, the Organization of Black and Hispanic Alumni of Binghamton University commenced a fundraising project specifically designed to create scholarships for students of African/Latin descent at Binghamton University.

The Michael V. Boyd '79, '87 Memorial Scholarship, currently endowed in excess of \$86,000 and administered by the Foundation of the State University of New York at Binghamton, Inc., is the result of generous contributions of alumni, faculty, staff, administrators and friends of the University.

This is merit-based scholarship, named in honor of Michael V. Boyd, a dear friend, fellow alumnus and Director of the Educational Opportunity Program from 1986 to 1994. Following his untimely death in 1994, the scholarship fund was established to annually award a \$2,000 scholarship to a Binghamton University student. The recipient of the award should be a person who shares Michael's commitment to higher learning, his willingness to selflessly guide and assist others in striving for and reaching their goals, and his willingness to serve the needs of the Binghamton community as well as the University.

The scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student who has completed a minimum of four semesters, calculated by the number of credit hours earned. First preference is offered to students of African/Latin descent. Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and have exceptional service to the University and/or the local community. Applicants must submit a letter of support and the service requirement must be verifiable.

In addition, each applicant is required to write an essay on a topic determined on an annual basis by a member of the Michael V. Boyd '79, '87 Memorial Scholarship selection committee. By submitting the essay, the writer consents to have the submission published by the University or the selection committee. The submission of the essay becomes the property of the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations. A committee consisting of members of the University community and the Alumni Association has been established to screen the essays.

The scholarship award will be applied during the academic year following the selection and will comprise part of the recipient's overall financial aid award for that academic year.

Eligibility

The Michael V. Boyd '79, '87 Memorial Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship awarded to an undergraduate student who has completed four semesters of course work, as calculated by the number of credit hours earned at the time of submission. First preference is given to a student of African/Latin descent.

- The recipient must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- The recipient must be active in the Binghamton community and/or extra curricular programs at the University. Participation in community-based or extra curricular programs must be verifiable.
- All students must submit one (1) letter of support from a Binghamton University Faculty or Staff member.
 - The faculty or staff member should indicate in what capacity and for how long they have known the candidate.
 - Recommendation should address the personal attributes and achievements of the candidate which indicate he/she shares Michael Boyd's commitment to higher learning, his willingness to selflessly guide and assist others in striving for and reaching their goals, and his willingness to serve the needs of the Binghamton community as well as the University.
- All students must write an essay of no less than 1,000 words, but no more than 1,500 words. The essay question will change annually. The questions will concern issues affecting the African/Latin communities.
- The submission of an essay is authorization of and consents to the publication of the essay by the University or the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, the sponsor. The essay becomes the property of the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations.
- Verification, letter of support and essay should be submitted to the Office of Financial Aid Services at the same time. Grade point average will be verified through the University.

Format

The presentation of your essay is a critical component of the selection criteria for the Michael V. Boyd '79, '87 Memorial Scholarship. The following guidelines are designed to assist you in your presentation. Any submission that does not conform to these requirements may be deemed ineligible. Please keep in mind that this is not intended to be a research project and your submission should be in essay format. There is no need to submit any citations, unless the item you're citing is relatively obscure.

Form and Size

- The answer should be printed with black ink on an 8½ x 11-inch sheet of paper.
- Type Size: The essay should be in good, clear type, not less than 11 point, but no larger than 13 point. Any footnotes may be printed no less than 9 point.
- The printed essay must be contained within 1-inch margins on all four sides of the paper.
- The use of bold print is discouraged but may be used for extra emphasis, where appropriate.

Length

- The submission should be no less than 1,000 and no more than 1,500 words. Please note that committee members reading submissions will not read beyond the word limit.

Content

- Your submission should contain clear and concise statements of your positions and should demonstrate that a fair amount of thought and reflection went into the submission.
- It is imperative that the submission answer one (1) of the questions presented by the committee. Failure to answer one question presented by the committee will result in disqualification.
- Creativity and original thought are encouraged.
- Plagiarized work will be disqualified.

Grammatical Errors and Spelling

- As Binghamton University is an institute for higher learning, spelling and grammatical errors may severely impact your overall rating.

The Michael V. Boyd '79, '87 Memorial Scholarship 2008-09 Essay Questions

Please respond to one of the following essay questions.

1. In recent years, immigration has once again come to the forefront of debate for most Americans. The greatest worry that was cited amongst Americans was the fear and belief that undocumented immigrants take away jobs from U.S. Citizens. State your opinion on whether this argument is valid or not. Include supportive information on your viewpoint of the argument.

OR

2. If Africa is ever to unify and become a unified model of productivity, it will have to address the issue of Genocide that plagues the continent. Many have weighed in on whether or not the United States should intervene in places such as Darfur and Rwanda. What are your thoughts about whether the U.S. should interfere or not in affairs of Africa related to Genocide?

Submit your essay, participation in community and/or extra curricular programs, and letter of support to Financial Aid Services, Room 109

Deadline: 4:00 pm on Friday, March 28, 2008

Past Recipients

1995 Recipient

Ms. Karen Marie Winkfield `96

1996 Recipient

Ms. Liz E. Thompson `97

1997 Recipient

Ms. Shawanda Weems `98

1998 Recipients

Mr. Garly A. Benoit `00

Ms. Rosalyn Perez `99

1999 Recipient

Ms. Erica Rivera `00

2000

No Award Issued

2001 Recipients

Ms. Natalie Matthews

Ms. Sherika Sterling

2002

No Award Issued

2003 Recipient

Ms. Florence Akinyemi

2004

No Award Issued

2005 Recipient

Mr. Samuel Cruz

2006 Recipients

Valessa St. Pierre

Aileen Hernandez

2007 Recipients

Ms. Keisha Benjamin

Ms. Taris Burgess