

# The Virgin Islands Association Robert Finch Memorial Scholarship

2010



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Website: [www.viadc.org](http://www.viadc.org)

## **About the Virgin Islands Association**

The Virgin Islands Association (VIA) of the DC Metropolitan area was founded in 1980 as a non profit association committed to our community, academic excellence and our cultural traditions. VIA is an active community network, supporting the enhancement of cultural diversity and providing professional development and mentoring to our college bound students.

To fulfill our mission of academic excellence and extend our support of Virgin Islands students, for the 2010 Academic year, VIA is launching a Scholarship Program.

## **About Robert Finch**

Robert Finch, son of Earle and Olyve Finch, served as the first President of the Washington, DC based Virgin Islands Association. Under his leadership, he guided the fledgling organization to develop a robust membership with a mission of supporting the people of the Virgin Islands. Robert Finch believed in the power of education and held a Bachelor of Science degree from Morgan State University and a Master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, both in Social Work. Robert served his military tour of duty in Frankfurt, Germany and worked first in the Virgin Islands for the Department of Health, Division of Mental Health and then as Director of the Drug and Alcohol Division for the Veteran's Administration, in Washington, DC . We are honored his family supports the use of his name and inspiration for this scholarship.

Dear Virgin Islands Association Robert Finch Memorial Scholarship Applicant,

Congratulations on making the decision to pursue a college or vocational education program and thank you for your interest in this scholarship fund. Advanced education is a critical tool for your future and as an organization we are excited to provide this opportunity to support our Virgin Islands students.

Please follow all instructions carefully and provide complete information to ensure that your application is competitive.

### *Scholarship Description*

The Virgin Islands Association Robert Finch Memorial Scholarships are designed to assist recent high school graduates entering their first-year of an undergraduate or vocational program. Students must be graduates of a high school in the U.S. Virgin Islands attending school in Washington, DC, Maryland or Virginia OR a child of a VIA member.

Three (3) awards in the amount of \$1,000 each will be awarded in 2010.

### *Eligibility Requirements*

- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of **2.5** on a 4.0 scale
- Be a graduate of a high school in the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. Croix or St. John) **OR** be a child of a VIA member and have plans to enroll **FULL-TIME** in an undergraduate program or a vocational program in Washington, DC, Virginia or Maryland during the 2010-2011 academic year.

### *Required Documents*

- Completed application must be typed or neatly handwritten in dark ink. Application can also be accessed online at: <http://www.viadc.org/>.
- Most recent **official** transcript issued from your High School. Copies or Web printouts are not accepted.
- Two letters of recommendation (teacher, advisor, employer/supervisor, counselor or other individual who can speak to your character, learning proficiency, values and goals) submitted in a sealed envelope with recommenders initials signed across the seal.
- One page typed essay (no more than 300 words) highlighting academic and career goals and addressing the topic of how your education (supported by this scholarship) will influence the Virgin Islands.
- Proof of acceptance from an institution of learning for an upcoming term.
- Copy of SAT or other standardized scores (not required for applicants to vocational programs).

Completed applications (postmarked March 31, 2010) should be mailed to:  
VIA Robert Finch Memorial Scholarship Committee P. O. Box 75903, Washington, D.C.  
20013

### *Scholarship Timeline and Due Dates*

#### Application Deadline

Completed applications for VIA Robert Finch Memorial Scholarships must be **postmarked** on or before **March 31, 2010**. Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed.

Application Available	<i>January 2010</i>
Application Deadline	<i>March 31, 2010 (must be postmarked by 3/31/10)</i>
Application Processing	<i>March through May 2010</i>
Selections	<i>June 2010</i>
Award Notifications	<i>June 2010</i>
Verification of Enrollment	<i>Fall 2010</i>
Award Distribution	<i>Fall 2010</i>

### *Scholarship Tips*

1. Carefully review the scholarship requirements and complete all application instructions
2. Recommend another colleague proofread your documents prior to submission.
3. Arrange to have your high school transcript and two confidential letters of recommendation forwarded to the scholarship committee.
4. Compose your essay, on a separate page and include work experience, leadership experience, community activities, honors and awards, academic goals and career goals (as applicable) as you respond to the why it is important for you to receive this scholarship.
5. Certify (by signature) that all the information provided on the application is true to the best of your knowledge.

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**Use the Space Below to List Accomplishments of which you are most proud (to include clubs, community service, church, work or other related activities and experience). Optional: You may include a resume.**

Activity:

Description/Responsibilities:

Dates: From To:

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Activity:

Description/Responsibilities:

Dates: From To:

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Activity:

Description/Responsibilities:

Dates: From To:

#### **Privacy Declaration**

Information requested in this application form and the related documents will be used solely for the purpose of assessing your application for a Virgin Islands Association (VIA) Robert Finch Memorial Scholarship. Personal information contained in this application will only be made available to members of the Scholarship Selection Committee and the members of the Virgin Islands Association Board of Directors.

#### **Disclaimer and Signature**

*I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false or misleading information in my application may result in my not being considered for this scholarship. I understand that if selected to receive this scholarship, the actual award of funds is contingent on proof that I am enrolled in a degree or vocational program.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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