



Dr. C. Clayton Powell Georgia Student Award

Sponsored by the Georgia Chapter of the National Optometric Association

With talent and leadership qualities that have glowed intensely since he was a child, Atlanta resident, Dr. C. Clayton Powell has built a life of distinction and service in the arenas of scholarship, business, civic life, politics, and civil rights.

Dr. Powell moved to Atlanta, Georgia from Dothan, Alabama where he attended Atlanta's prominent Booker T. Washington High School. In a landslide victory, he swept the student body election to become President of the Student Government. He was salutatorian of the 500 member Class of 1944. Afterwards, prestigious Morehouse College beckoned. Dr. Powell entered Morehouse as a classmate of Martin Luther King, Jr. His involvements at Morehouse included memberships in Beta Kappa Chi National Scientific Society, Morehouse Glee Club, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

After graduation from Morehouse, Dr. Powell was attracted to a profession rarely pursued by African Americans. In 1949, he entered Illinois College of Optometry, formerly known as Chicago College of Optometry, as the only African American student in the class. He joined Mu Sigma Pi, a Jewish Fraternity, and soon became president. Dr. Powell was also a member of Beta Sigma Kappa International Optometric Honorary Society and Tomb & Key Honorary Society. He was editor of the school newspaper, "Eyes Right." Upon earning a doctorate of optometry, Dr. Powell returned to Atlanta, GA where he launched a successful private practice and a life of making a difference.

In 1969, Dr. Powell co-founded the National Optometric Association (NOA). The primary goal of the NOA has been the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority students into the optometric profession. The organization, serving African American optometric professionals, promptly rose to national stature and is emblematic of his penchant for trailblazing. He made decisions regarding eye research through his appointment to the National Eye Institute (NEI) of the National Institute of Health (NIH) as one of the first practicing optometrists and the first African American. He organized and later served as Chief of the Eye Department at Atlanta Southside Comprehensive Health Center. In 1972, he was the first optometrist to become Executive Director of the Center.

Around 1981, Dr. Powell decided there should be state chapters of the NOA. He organized the first one in Georgia. With his new associate, Dr. Leah McFerren, he journeyed to Macon, GA where he met with Dr. Lorenzo Jones, Dr. Alphonso Dandy and about 5 other doctors to begin the Georgia Chapter of NOA. The meetings were held on Sundays in Macon, GA with the doctors meeting for lunch. Soon other doctors, Gideon Mincey, Robin McGhee, Keith Fische, Gordon Allen, Brel Clark, and Algenon Dandy (deceased), joined the chapter. Then, Dr. Susan Primo moved to town, joined the chapter, and became president. The organization began to grow during her leadership. Dr. Jason Blowe, the current chapter president, has given the chapter new energy and life. Each year, the Georgia Chapter hosts a reception for doctors and students attending SECO International Conference. The reception has grown to be one of the largest receptions during SECO.

Dr. Powell has boldly made his mark in the profession of optometry as well as politics, civil rights, and community service. He has been an active Republican since 1948 and has worked locally, regionally, and nationally as a speechwriter, campaign manager and delegate. As Vice-Chairman of the Atlanta Branch NAACP & Chairman of the Legal Redress Committee, he filed all of the cases to desegregate the Atlanta Public Schools. In addition, he worked with the eminent Thurgood Marshall, his late wife Attorney Romae Turner Powell, and other lawyers during the very early days of the Civil Rights Movement.

Currently, Dr. Powell serves as Executive Director of the Development Authority of Fulton County (DAFC). He is a charter member of DAFC whose mission is to stimulate and facilitate economic growth in Fulton County. He is still an active member of NOA, Georgia NOA, Georgia Optometric Association (GOA), GOA 5th District, and American Optometric Association (AOA).



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APPLICATION

Date _____

Name (Last, First, MI) _____

Current Address _____

Permanent Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

Optometry School _____

Graduation Year _____

Current and previously held NOSA positions _____

Current and previously appointed or elected positions within your optometry school _____

Community service activities and leadership _____

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____



PERSONAL STATEMENT

Please submit a two page, typed, double-spaced personal statement, highlighting the following:

1. Your reason (s) for applying for this award
2. Your involvement in professional, community, extracurricular activities or events that have displayed your commitment to your commitment to serving humanity and demonstrating interest in others
3. How you hope to positively impact the profession of optometry in the future

TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please submit two (2) letters of recommendation from an educator, administrator, optometrist, or community leader who is able to speak on your behalf regarding your leadership qualities, your humanitarian acts that positively impact others, your scholarly achievements, etc.

Name, relationship, & phone number of person writing recommendation letter

Name, relationship, & phone number of person writing recommendation letter

RESUME

Please submit a one-page resume.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

Please submit an official copy of your transcript from your college of optometry. You may submit your official transcript in a separately sealed envelope with your application or directly from your college of optometry to Dr. Susan Primo.

Susan A. Primo, O.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.O.
 Director, Vision and Optical Services
 Emory Eye Center
 1365B Clifton Rd, NE
 Atlanta, GA 30322
 Email: sprimo@emory.edu
 Phone: (404)778-3317
 Fax: (404) 778-5609



This \$500.00 award will be given to the optometric student who shares Dr. Powell's passion for optometry and humanity. The optometric student must demonstrate commitment to the profession, academic achievement, leadership within the college of optometry, dedication to community service, and plans to reside in the state of Georgia after graduation or currently a resident of the state of Georgia.

Criteria

1. 4th year optometry student
2. Active member of NOSA
3. Good academic standing with minimum 3.0 GPA
4. Demonstrated leadership in both community service and optometry school
5. Resident of Georgia or planning to practice in Georgia after graduation from optometry school

Application Process

Submit completed application with items listed below by **May 1, 2018** to:

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- ✓ Application
- ✓ Personal statement
- ✓ Two letters of recommendation
- ✓ Official transcript
- ✓ Resume

The recipient of this award will be announced at the NOSA Awards held during the National Optometric Association Convention, July 11-15, 2018 San Antonio, TX

Attendance is required.