Dr. Robert Johnson Pediatric/Vision Therapy Award
Scholarship Application

Sponsored by the National Optometric Association
Mission: Advancing the visual health of minority populations

Realizing the need for a comprehensive enhanced vision therapy center for African Americans, Dr. Robert L. Johnson, Sr., co-founded the Plano Child Development Center in Chicago, Illinois in 1959. Plano provides low cost and free vision therapy for thousands of youngsters, resulting in remarkable improvements in school achievement and behavior. Dr. Johnson, a 1951 graduate of Xavier University in New Orleans, received his master’s degree from the University of Chicago in 1954 and graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry in 1960. He is also an active member of the Optometric Extension Program (OEP), Illinois Optometric Association (IOA), American Optometric Association (AOA), and the National Optometric Association (NOA).

As a pioneer in the field of optometry, Dr. Robert Johnson began a school for optometric technicians who graduated with associate degrees and organized Vision PPOs in Chicago, Washington, D.C., New Orleans and Atlanta. He has served as a consultant to Woodlawn Experimental School Project, Chicago Board of Education, Project Healthy where he evaluated the effectiveness of Head start, Cole Vision and to the U.S. Postal Services where he established vision standards for six job categories.

His benevolence has not gone unnoticed. As a member of professional associations, Dr. Johnson has been honored on numerous occasions. In 1978 he was NOA Optometrist of the Year and in 1994, Illinois College of Optometry Alumni of the Year. After serving as NOA President, he received the NOA Presidential Award. In 1977, he also received the G.N. Getman Award from the College of Vision Development for his role in bringing behavioral vision services to the disadvantaged youth in Chicago. Dr. Johnson was the first African-American to receive a fellowship in the College of Vision Development. He received the Optometric Extension Program (OEP) Great Lakes Congress Presidential Award and the African-American Community Service Award in 2002. Noting Johnson’s tireless effort, he received the “Outstanding Leadership and Service Award, along with his wife from his church, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.

Criteria:
One (1) $1000 cash award will be given to one optometry student who:
1) is in good academic standing at respective optometric institution (G.P.A.=2.5 or higher)
2) is an active member of the National Optometric Student Association and attends an accredited school in the the United States or Puerto Rico
3) demonstrates community involvement (i.e., school screenings, COVD membership involvement)
4) is a third or fourth year student
5) Demonstrates in 300 words or less their aspirations as an O.D. and commitment to community service related to Pediatric Vision Care or Binocular Vision /Vision Therapy

Please Mail Completed Application to:
Plano c/o Dr. Stephanie Johnson- Brown
5401 S. Wentworth Suite 14 A
Chicago, IL 60609

DEADLINE: Complete applications must be RECEIVED by May 01, 2018.

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 not required.
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PART I

Date ______________________
Name ________________________  ________________________  ________________________
LAST FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL

Date of Birth ________________________
Current Address ________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ________________________
Permanent Address ______________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ________________________
Telephone Number ______________________________________________________________
Email ________________________________

Optometric Institution Currently Attending ____________________________________________
Year of Class Graduation _________ Institution has an NOSA chapter? (circle one) Yes  No
NOSA Advisor ________________________________________________________________
Applicant’s Signature ____________________________________________________________

PART II

PERSONAL STATEMENT
Please write an essay of 300 words or less describing your aspirations as an O.D. and commitment to
community service related to Pediatric Vision Care or Binocular Vision/Vision Therapy

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
Please submit two (2) letters of recommendation from an educator and/or administrator.

TRANSCRIPT
Please submit one official transcript by the application deadline.

If applying for more than one national scholarship, you may mail ONE transcript to be processed to:
Valenta Carter, O.D.
NOA Director of Student Affairs
3501 Custer Parkway Ste 105
Richardson, TX 75080