

The Virgin Islands Association, DC (VIA-DC)
Robert Finch Memorial Scholarship

2018



Email: dcmetrovia@gmail.com

Website: www.viadc.org

Address: P.O. Box 75903, Washington, DC 20013

About the Virgin Islands Association, DC (VIA-DC)

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-DC 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 to Virgin Islands students, VIA-DC is pleased to announce the 2018 Robert Finch Memorial 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, the fledgling organization developed 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 (VCU), 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 that his family supports the use of his name and inspiration for this scholarship.

Completed applications must be submitted online no later than May 1, 2018!

Dear Virgin Islands Association, DC 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, DC 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 or be a high school graduate and child of a member of the Virgin Islands Association, DC. Three (3) awards, in the amount of \$1,000 each, will be awarded in 2018.

Eligibility Requirements

- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of **3.0** 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-DC member.
- Have plans to **enroll FULL-TIME in an undergraduate program or a vocational program** during the 2018-2019 academic year.

Required Documents

- Completed application must be accessed online at: <http://www.viadc.org/>. The following application additions must be provided through viadc.scholarships@gmail.com
- 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. Recommendations from family members, are not permitted.
- One page (sized 8 ½ x 11, single space, one side only) typed essay 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 the 2018-2019 academic year.
- Copy of SAT or other standardized scores (not required for applicants to vocational programs).

Scholarship Timeline and Due Dates

Application Available	<i>March 2018</i>	Award Notifications	<i>June 2018</i>
Application Deadline	<i>May 1, 2018</i>	Verification of Enrollment	<i>Fall 2018</i>
Application Processing	<i>May 2018</i>	Award Distribution	<i>Fall 2018</i>
Selections	<i>May 2018</i>	<u>Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed.</u>	

Completed applications must be submitted online no later than May 1, 2018!

Scholarship Tips for Applicants

1. Carefully review the scholarship requirements and complete all application instructions.
2. Ask a colleague to proofread your documents prior to submission.
3. Arrange to have your high school transcript and two confidential letters of recommendation forwarded to the Scholarship Selection Committee at viadc.scholarships@gmail.com.
4. Compose your essay on a separate page. Include work experience, leadership experience, community activities, honors and awards, academic goals and career goals (as applicable) as you respond to **why** it is important for you to receive this scholarship. Submit to viadc.scholarships@gmail.com, Include your name in subject line.
5. Include a copy of your acceptance letter to a college or university for the 2018-2019 academic year.
6. Certify (by signature) that all information provided on the application is true to the best of your knowledge.

Scholarship Tips for Recommendation Letter Writers

1. Your letter of recommendation must be submitted by email, no later than May 1, 2018.
2. Verify and speak to your relationship to the applicant for whom you are writing the letter of recommendation
3. Submit your letter from your email account
4. In the Subject Line of your email, please reference the name of the student for whom you are supporting.
5. Address your submission to the VIA Scholarship Selection Committee at the following email: viadc.scholarships@gmail.com

Virgin Islands Association, DC Robert Finch Memorial Scholarship

Applicant Information		
Full Name:		Date:
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>M.I.</i>
Address:		
<i>Street Address</i>		<i>Apartment/Unit #</i>
<i>City</i>		<i>State</i> <i>ZIP Code</i>
Phone: ()	E-mail Address:	
Name of High School:	Address:	GPA:
School Contact (Principal, Counselor, Teacher-include Name, Title, Phone, Email):		
Is an SAT Score required for admission to your program? If yes, provide the score.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Score: _____
Is an ACT Score required for admission to your program? If yes, provide the Score.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Score: _____
Anticipated College/School:	Name:	Address:
Anticipated Major or Course of Study:		
Financing Your Education		
What do you anticipate the annual cost of your education to be? \$ _____		
Will you be receiving financial aid? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
If yes, check the type(s) of aid: <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship <input type="checkbox"/> Loans <input type="checkbox"/> Work study		
References		
<i>List two references (Letters from each of these references must be submitted with the application in a sealed envelope. Each reference writer must sign across the seal of the envelope to ensure confidentiality of the contents).</i>		
Name/Title:	Relationship:	
Organization:	Phone: ()	
Address:		
Email:		
Name/Title:	Relationship:	
Organization:	Phone: ()	
Address:		
Email:		

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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 attach a résumé.

Activity:		
Description/Responsibilities:		
Dates:	From	To:
Activity:		
Description/Responsibilities		
Dates:	From	To:
Activity:		
Description/Responsibilities		
Dates:	From:	To:
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 will result in my disqualification from this scholarship competition. 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: