

DC



POTA ESTEL COSTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

About Pota Coston

The Pota Estel Coston Memorial Scholarship honors AVPRIDE's dedicated youth programs manager and Fayette County Commissioner who passed away in 2015. A graduate of Marshall University, the Honorable Pota Coston's passion was public service and youth development.



The Association of Village PRIDE, Inc. (AVPRIDE), which specializes in leadership development for teens and young adults, greatly benefited from her dedication. She began as Director of Career Exploration and eventually became Director of AVPRIDE's Workforce Development Program, coordinating and participating in numerous initiatives to help youth in the community.

She was a member of more than a dozen civic organizations including Fayette County's Ethics Board, the Chamber of Commerce, Fayette FACTOR, Friends of the Tyrone Library, and the River Oaks Advisory Board. She was a member of Elizabeth Baptist Church.

About the Pota Estel Coston Memorial Scholarship

Each year a \$500 scholarship is given to a senior from AVPRIDE's teen youth development group (SAYA) to assist with college or technical school costs. The scholarship is not based on GPAs or extensive resumes. Rather, the PEC scholarship aims to identify those students who have the greatest potential to make a difference in their community and among the people they meet.

DEADLINE: April 30, 2024

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We are requiring that the winner must be present at the End of the Year Ceremony May 15th to receive the reward.

How to Apply

1. Complete a 200 Word [ESSAY](#) that addresses **one or more** of the following areas:
 - How have you changed while in the South Atlanta Youth Alliance (SAYA)? Describe the experiences which have influenced your outlook and development regarding life and your future plans.
 - SAYA students are often described as "Diamonds in the Rough," young people with great potential who could benefit from mentoring and a friendly environment that allows them the freedom to explore ideas and leadership skills that will serve them well in the future. How have you engaged with the South Atlanta Youth Alliance and your peers to develop your leadership skills?
 - Teamwork and team development are crucial aspects of succeeding in the business world and as adults. Describe your team experiences as a SAYA student and how it has impacted your perspective on achieving goals in your work life.
 - What has SAYA meant to you?
2. Please have your two letters of recommendation emailed to info@avpride.com by April 30, 2024, with the subject line "Coston Scholarship" and your name. (More details are in the biographical sketch.)
3. Please follow this [link](#) to fill out the biographical sketch.

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Oliver Family Memorial Scholarship

Through generous donations of the Oliver Family and Friends, the scholarship was revived in 2019 and the name changed to the Oliver Family Memorial Scholarship.



Mr. Oliver served on the AVPRIDE board from 1998 to 2013 while he was Assistant Superintendent with the Fayette County school system. He transitioned on March 1, 2019.

"Fred was wonderful and he was instrumental in so many ways," said co-founder Dawn Oparah. Whether it was providing board meeting space, computers, reading resources, he never said no including requests for countless letters of support. "If it could be done, he found a way to do it," said Mrs.

Oparah. "He was all about the kids," said co-founder Sheila Pace. "Whatever was needed, he found a way to help the children."

Some of his greatest contributions included his ability to connect AVPRIDE to people, places, and resources so that students received the very best support and ensured success in their education, community, and life. This deep desire extended to the memorial scholarship established in 2002 by Mr. Oliver and his wife, Mae, in honor of their daughter Audra Nicole Oliver (see below). More than 25 scholarships have been given to Fayette County seniors through this program.

Mae and her husband, Fred, supported the Oliver Family Memorial Scholarship, initially named in honor of their daughter, Audra Nicole. She was an elementary teacher, a cherished member of AKA sorority, and loved to travel. She transitioned April 19, 2023.



About Audra Nicole Oliver



Although born with sickle cell anemia and facing illness throughout her lifetime, Audra was able to complete high school and go on to post-secondary education at both Floyd College in Rome, GA and Chattahoochee Technological School in Marietta. Audra had a great love for children and inspired many people during her lifetime. She was a mentor to many including a number of young people stricken with sickle cell disease. From her hospital bed, she sold CDs produced by her cousin. When asked how she could do that

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when she was so ill, she simply said, “I love my little cousin and I want to help her become successful in spreading God’s word through song.”

Audra showed an enormous amount of love and compassion for others. She accomplished a great deal in her lifetime against all odds and surely would have done much more had the debilitating disease not restricted her. Audra exemplified in life the qualities and characteristics of determination, dedication, leadership, service to others, perseverance in the face of obstacles, joy and zest for living, unending faith, and great love for her family and humanity.

Audra Nicole Oliver worked for the Fayette County Board of Education until the critical nature of the disease forced her to quit her job. On February 3, 2002, at the age of 32, Audra Nicole transitioned from this life.

The scholarship was created to honor Audra’s memory and her legacy through the lives of scholarship recipients. Although not an endowed scholarship at this point the goal is to have this scholarship become endowed so that every year scholarships can be awarded to worthy seniors from Fayette County. Since 2002, scholarships in excess of \$10,000 in scholarships have been awarded.

Scholarship Criteria & Application

- ☐ Applicants must be **high school seniors** living in Fayette County and attending a Fayette County High School.
- ☐ Applicants must demonstrate a **history of youth leadership** in school, faith organization, and/or the community.
- ☐ Applicants must supply **one reference**.
- ☐ Applicants must submit **one letter of recommendation**, which details the applicant's qualities relevant to perseverance, service, and leadership.
- ☐ Applicants must submit **two short essays, no more than 300 words in total**, that details his/her characteristics relevant to perseverance in the face of some life obstacle, service to others in school or community; leadership in school and/or community, and scholastic achievement. **(The essay is a part of the application).**
- ☐ Applicants must have documentation of both acceptance to a post-secondary institution and declaration of attendance to a post-secondary institution in the Fall of 2024.
- ☐ Email Acceptance Letter to info@avpride.com
- ☐ Please follow this [link](#) to fill out the application.
- ☐ The deadline for this application is **April 30, 2024**.
- ☐ We are requiring that the winner must be present at the End of the Year Ceremony May 15th to receive the reward.
- ☐ Please direct your questions to chrischelemadison@avpride.com



Taylor Nicole Conigland **Memorial Scholarship**

Through a generous donation from her family, AVPRIDE is honored to bring back the Taylor Noelle Conigland Memorial Scholarship.

Taylor was the youngest and most feisty member of her family. She was very athletic and loved reading and poetry. She played the flute in band, played soccer, and was part of the marching band's dance team. She even went to Europe to perform with the Fayette County High School marching band! She was a member of AVPRIDE's Fayette Youth Leaders PRIDE (FYLP, now SAYA) program.

In 2010, her sophomore year of high school, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor. She courageously battled, but sadly, she passed away at the tender age of 16. She is lovingly remembered by all her friends and family, as well as her schools and the programs that she was a part of.

Join us in celebrating the life and legacy of Taylor Noelle Conigland by applying for this prestigious scholarship opportunity. Together, let us honor her memory and inspire future generations to embrace creativity, service, fearlessness, and resilience in all that they do.

Academics and Fine Arts Creativity:

We are seeking candidates who showcase creativity both in their academic pursuits and in the fine arts which include and are not limited to visual arts, dance, music, spoken word, and theater. The ideal candidate for the Taylor Noelle Conigland Memorial Scholarship would showcase the following qualities:

- Resilience (Overcome Adversity)
- Fearless (Shows Persistence)
- Servant (Helps in the Community)
- Creativity (Academics or Fine Arts) (Taylor was a Poet)

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In your application, we encourage you to reflect on how you embody these qualities and how the scholarship would support your academic aspirations. Whether through a heartfelt essay, a captivating poem, or a compelling video, let your voice and your story shine. Your resilience, fearlessness, servant heart, and creativity could earn you \$500 to support your academic journey.

How to Apply:

Fill out the [application form](#).

Please email us one letter of recommendation, to info@avpride.com. It may be from a member of the community or a staff member from the school you attend. Please have it submitted by **April 30, 2024**. We also ask for the name and phone number of someone we can call who can speak well of you for this scholarship, and your relationship to them. They may be someone from your school and/or someone from the community.

We are requiring that the winner must be present at the End of the Year Ceremony May 15th to receive the reward.

Please direct any questions to ChrischeleMadison@avpride.com.

The deadline for applications is **April 30, 2024**.

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