



COLLEGE BOUND, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

# 2023

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



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The Chicago Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) is pleased to announce its 2023 Scholarship Program. COMTO is a national, multi-ethnic, minority based, non-profit organization founded in 1971 to ensure opportunities and maximum participation in the transportation industry for minority individuals, businesses and communities of color. COMTO is committed to the professional, educational, and business development of its members. COMTO Chicago has assumed an active role in the minority community establishing numerous programs that energize and strengthen the communities we serve. COMTO Chicago has established an annual scholarship awards program and believes education is a core foundation for excellence in transportation or any other field of study. Our scholarship program is committed to providing financial support to minority students to help them maximize their educational potential. We invite you to apply for our scholarship.

## SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION:

COMTO Chicago offers a variety of scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 to deserving students in the region. Selections are made by a team of industry professionals and/or representatives from the academic community.

**COMTO Chicago Founding Fathers Leadership Legacy Scholarship (\$2,000)** has been established to honor the past, present, and future leaders of COMTO Chicago by awarding a scholarship to graduate students pursuing a career in transportation. This scholarship will be awarded to a COMTO Chicago member enrolled in a four-year academic program at an accredited college or university, pursuing undergraduate studies in transportation or a related field, and who has demonstrated leadership skills and an active commitment to community service.

**Elonzo "Lonnie" Hill Mentorship Scholarship (\$2,000)** has been established to honor 2015 APTA Hall of Fame Inductee "Lonnie Hill". Mr. Hill's work ethic, civil – mindedness and charitable outreach favorably impacted the transportation industry and the community it served. From a Chicago Transit Authority bus operator to top executive posts at the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and APTA, Mr. Hill served as beloved mentor to all he encountered, routinely referring to himself as "a bus driver out my classification". This scholarship will be awarded to a COMTO Chicago member enrolled in a four-year academic program at an accredited college or university and pursuing undergraduate studies in transportation or a related field.

**A. Phillip Randolph Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)** has been established to honor a Leader in the Civil Rights and American Labor Movement. He was Founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first predominately African-American Labor Union. This scholarship will be awarded to a COMTO Chicago member enrolled in a four-year academic program at an accredited college or university and pursuing undergraduate studies in transportation or a related field.

**Reverend Addie L. Wyatt Junior College Scholarship (\$1,000)** has been established to honor a Woman in the Labor Movement and a Civil Rights Activist. Reverend Wyatt was a founding member of the National Organization for Women and a leader in the struggle for an Equal Rights Amendment. COMTO Chicago fosters and encourages students to undertake careers in the transportation field. One way it does this is by awarding community, technical, or trade college scholarships to students pursuing transportation-related studies at community and trade colleges. This scholarship will be awarded to a COMTO Chicago member enrolled in a four-year academic program at an accredited college or university and pursuing undergraduate studies in transportation or a related field.

**Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable Leadership Scholarship (\$1,000)** has been established to honor a Trader and Founder of Chicago. This scholarship is awarded to a student who demonstrates leadership in their communities and high school. This scholarship will be awarded to an incoming college freshman, enrolled in a four-year academic program at an accredited college or university who taken an active leadership role in community and schools within the Chicago area.

## ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1. U.S. resident or non-U.S. Citizen student that has an alien registration card or whom are a permanent resident, enrolled full-time as High School seniors, undergraduate students in a transportation industry related academic program at an accredited college, university, or vocational-trade school. All eligible students are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be able to describe their short and long-range professional career goals in an essay (See Career Interest Essay requirement, Item B, page 5).
2. Belong to an underrepresented or minority group.
3. Applicants must either be a resident of Illinois or attending a college or vocational-technical school in Illinois.
4. High school graduates or College Students with a declared academic major for Fall 2023. (Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable Scholarship is exclusive to graduating HS Senior)
5. Applicants must have a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or above.
6. Applicants will be required to verify information.
7. Applicants must be a COMTO student member. (COMTO Membership for students is free) [link https://comto.org/membership/become-member](https://comto.org/membership/become-member)
8. Winners are required to attend the COMTO Chicago Scholarship Award Event. (Parents can accept for awardee)
9. Students may receive scholarships a maximum of two times from the COMTO Chicago Chapter.



*Scholarship*  
**Application**

**DUE FRIDAY  
JUNE 30<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS EVENT**

The COMTO Chicago Chapter Scholarship Award Reception will be held **on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**. Scholarship Award Recipients will be notified by July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE CHECK LIST**

Applicants must submit the following:

**(PLEASE UPLOAD ALL DOCUMENTS IN ONE (1) ATTACHMENT)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed Student Application with signature (Item A below)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Career Interest Essay – Maximum 600 words (Item B below (1-page minimum)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Official Transcript – most recent school transcript showing cumulative GPA. (Item C below)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resume (Item D below)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two (2) Letters of Recommendation (Item E below) – A letter reference from a professor, counselor, community leader, or advisor. Additional score points will be given if your reference prepares their letter on letterhead from the organization with which he/she is affiliated. Refer to Attachment 1.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photo – Suitable for printing in a brochure (Item F)
<b>(PLEASE UPLOAD ALL DOCUMENTS IN ONE (1) ATTACHMENT)</b>	

**Email Application Materials to:**  
[scholarship2023@comtochgo.org](mailto:scholarship2023@comtochgo.org)

**Applications can be downloaded @**  
<https://www.comtochicago.org/>

**EXAMPLES OF ACADEMIC MAJORS THAT SUPPORT THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY**

Transportation professionals work in a broad range of areas that generally aim to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Academic majors that support the transportation industry include the following:

- Engineering (i.e. Civil, Construction, Environmental, Mechanical, and Electrical)
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)
- Social Sciences (i.e. Planning, Economics, Geography, and Political science)
- Business Administration (i.e. Business Management, Policy, Public Health, Communications, Human Resources, Finance, Accounting, and Information Technology)

Jobs in the transportation field range from the design of transportation vehicles and systems, and the evaluation of the cost and efficiency of these vehicles and systems, to the study of environmental impacts on travelers (congestion, safety, and health related) and the development of transportation policies.



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## B. CAREER INTEREST ESSAY

Describe in detail on no less than one and a half pages, but no more than two pages, double spaced, your short and long-range professional career goals. Explain why you think you should receive the scholarship award. Explain any special circumstances in your life that you have had to overcome to succeed academically. Explain how additional resources could enhance your success. Scholarships that require community service must be described in essay.

## C. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

Submit by postal mail an original copy of your most recent transcript sealed by your school. The transcript may also be sent electronically directly from the school to [candice@comtochgo.org](mailto:candice@comtochgo.org) (Electronic is preferred).

## D. RÉSUMÉ

Provide a 1-page resume that includes information on your work experience, volunteer activities, education, honors/awards received, and other interests.

## E. REFERENCE

Two (2) Letters of Recommendations from any of the following: a teacher, academic advisor, a manager or supervisor from a community organization where you have worked or volunteered, an employer or a person other than a relative. (See Attachment 1 below)

## F. PHOTO

Graduation Photo (not proofs) or head shot photo suitable for printing in a brochure

### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Application materials must be postmarked or emailed no later than Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

(PLEASE UPLOAD ALL DOCUMENTS IN ONE (1) ATTACHMENT)

### Mail Application Materials to:

COMTO Chicago  
c/o: Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 291029  
Chicago IL. 60629

### Email Application Materials to:

[scholarship2023@comtochgo.org](mailto:scholarship2023@comtochgo.org)

### Applicants

Thank you for your interest in the COMTO Chicago scholarship program. If you have questions, email questions to [comtochicago@comtochgo.org](mailto:comtochicago@comtochgo.org)



# ATTACHMENT 1

## G. LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION – REFERENCE

Please ask a teacher or academic advisor, someone you've worked for at a community organization, an employer, or a person other than a relative to complete this section:

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*First*

*Middle*

*Last*

I have the following relationship with the student: (check as many as apply)

\_\_\_\_ Teacher/Academic Advisor

\_\_\_\_ Employer

\_\_\_\_ (His/her) Community Organization

\_\_\_\_ Other (Specify)

I am acquainted with his / her work during the period from: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

*Month/Year*

*Month/Year*

His / Her major is: \_\_\_\_\_ I have had

an opportunity to observe the quality of his / her work as (check one below):

\_\_\_\_ Outstanding

\_\_\_\_ Very Good

\_\_\_\_ Good

\_\_\_\_ Fair

Please add any other comments that you consider to be pertinent to the evaluation of the applicant as a potential COMTO scholarship recipient. (You are encouraged to attach an additional page on your company/school letterhead.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CONFIDENTIALITY: Please return this information to the applicant (whether sealed or not) so that it may be submitted along with other application materials. If confidentiality is desired, return to student in a sealed envelope – or, send it directly to COMTO Chapter at:

COMTO Chicago c/o Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 291029 Chicago IL. 60629 or email the form to: [scholarship2023@comtochgo.org](mailto:scholarship2023@comtochgo.org)