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CQCA MAKING COLLEGE DREAMS COME TRUE

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PHOTO/GRAPHIC PROVIDED

In today's world, getting a college education does not come cheaply! "In 2011-12, public four-year colleges charge, on average, \$8,244 in tuition and fees for in-state students." reports The College Board, a not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is connecting students to college success and opportunity. "The average surcharge for full-time out-of-state students at these institutions is \$12,526." And, that doesn't include housing, meals, books, etc!

The rising cost of college adds up and is expensive! "Higher education can't be a luxury -" said U. S. President Barack Obama in his 2012 State of the Union address, "it is an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford."

By providing funding assistance to help make college affordable, scholarship programs offered by organizations like the Cincinnati Queen City Alumnae (CQCA) Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated are important and vital to youth across Greater Cincinnati achieving their college education.

"The Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship [CQCA scholarship] helped me a lot financially." said a 2006 CQCA scholarship recipient. "Before I got the scholarship, I didn't know how I was going to pay for my college ex-



In 2011, CQCA awarded \$5,000 in Community Scholarships to aid deserving young women in their quest for college. Pictured from left to right : EboniJoi McNeill (3rd place 2011 scholarship winner), Ayo Parrish (member of the CQCA Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., 2011 Scholarship Committee), and Andrea Vessel (2nd place 2011 scholarship winner); File Photo

penses, but the scholarship gave me hope." Hope.

Since its' inception in 1989, CQCA has spread lots of hope to area African American youth through youth female and youth male scholarship and personal development initiatives. Over \$300,000 has been awarded in scholarships and awards through the chapter's Community Scholarships (graduating high school females) and the Beautillion Militaire (graduating high school

males) programs.

And, that tradition of spreading hope by awarding scholarships to deserving high school graduates continues in 2012!

CQCA is currently accepting applications for its 2012 Community Scholarships, one of CQCA's signature initiatives helping young African American females achieve their goals in life. "The Deltas were very inspiring." said a female scholarship recipient. "To see so many successful black women...motivated me to

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become just as successful.”

Towards that end – inspiring success and achievement, CQCA awards scholarships to African American females in the greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Area who are currently high school seniors and plan to attend a college or university upon graduation. Recipients of the Community Scholarships are based on academic excellence, community service involvement, financial need, essay, and a short interview if requested. Interested applicants must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Applications available at <http://www.cqcadst.org/scholarship.htm>. All completed applications must be received at the chapter's mailing address by **Friday, March 30, 2012**. Scholarship recipients for 2012 will be formally recognized in June 2012.

The CQCA Beautillion Militaire, now in its 22nd year, is another of CQCA's programs reaching back and reaching up through scholarships. The Beautillion Militaire, a stellar and unique program for African American, high school junior and senior males, focuses on helping young men realize their potential as they embark on their next step into manhood – graduation from high school and preparing for life. In addition to the various personal development workshops and community service in which participants engage,

they also compete for scholarships and awards. Parents/guardians are also involved in the program and play a pivotal role in the program's success. Since its inception, the Beautillion Militaire has aided 278 young men and given out \$250,000 in scholarships and awards.



The participants in the 2012 Beautillion Militaire are Keilin Q. Clim (Moeller High School); Ahmir Cummings (Schroder High School); Bomani Diop-West (Walnut Hills High School); Austin Bradley Stroud (Miamisburg High School); Kenneth “Quinn” Toney, II (Clark Montessori High School); and, Kolin C. Thomas (Cincinnati Christian School); The young men known as “beaux” will be celebrated and presented to the public amidst a backdrop of euphoria, after five attire, anticipation of beaux potential, and

showcasing beaux achievements on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at the Beautillion Militaire Gala. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Cincinnati North located at 11320 Chester Road in Sharonville, Ohio. Tickets are \$45 and must be purchased by March 27, 2012. The community is invited to attend.

The community can also show support by purchasing ads, which must be submitted by March 8, 2012 to be included in the printed souvenir program. For more Beautillion Militaire information, tickets, and/or purchase an ad, contact event chairpersons Erica Johnson at (513) 600-0024 or Myra Freed at (513) 931-0383.

Without a doubt, CQCA is helping to make college dreams come true and is leaving an imprint on the future...today!

CQCA's Community Scholarships and the Beautillion Militaire are just two exemplary examples of how the chapter's dedicated members have been passing the torch of education, motivation, and perseverance to generations of youth since 1989. Through the chapter's scholarship and education initiatives, youth have realized that college is attainable. The tradition to help youth realize their potential continues and is going strong!

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