



## **The Issam and Dr. Rima Abbas Endowed Scholarship**

**An initiative of the Abbas Family Red Wagon Fund housed at the Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP)**

Scholarship Deadline: 11:59pm on Monday, March 11th, 2024

### **About the Scholarship**

The Issam and Dr. Rima Abbas Endowed Scholarship is awarded to exceptionally driven and talented senior high school students at Fordson High School. The intent of this scholarship is to support motivated Fordson High School students who wish to make a difference in the world and who demonstrate a commitment to higher education. It is anticipated that each student will be awarded \$1,000-\$2,500. The fund will make all grant distributions directly to the student's affiliated college or university once they are enrolled. All colleges and universities must be accredited.

### **The story behind Issam and Dr. Rima Abbas**

The [Abbas Family Red Wagon Fund](#), housed at the [Center for Arab American Philanthropy \(CAAP\)](#), was established by Tom and Rana Taylor to honor the memory of Issam and Dr. Rima Abbas and their three children Ali, Isabella and Giselle, who were tragically killed on January 6, 2019 after they were struck by a wrong-way drunk driver. The fund aims to forever carry out the Abbas family's remarkable legacy of generosity and community support by supporting small and large projects, focused on breaking down barriers through advocacy, access to healthcare, education, and other initiatives that aim to center marginalized voices and promote empowerment, equity and healing. You can read more about the Abbas Family at <http://www.centeraap.org/abouttheabbasfamily/>.

Issam and Dr. Rima Abbas, along with their three children, believed deeply in the power of higher education, and its ability to help shape a brighter and more equitable future for all. They felt strongly that access to higher education ought to be a right, rather than a privilege. In keeping with these core beliefs, the Abbas Family Red Wagon Fund launched **The Issam and Dr. Rima Abbas Endowed Scholarship** for exceptionally driven and talented senior high school students at Fordson High School, who wish to make a difference in the world. This initiative was established to further the commitment that Issam and Dr. Rima – both Fordson alumni – had to higher education and community service.

## The Scholarship Application for The Issam and Dr. Rima Abbas Endowed Scholarship

### Eligibility and Requirements:

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- Must be a **current Fordson High School Senior**
- Financial hardship considered, but not required
- Must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Must pursue post high school education such as, but not limited to, programs resulting in a bachelor's degree, associate's degree, vocational training, certifications or registration programs reflective of area of interest/career
- Complete a 300-400-word essay addressing what a just, equitable and inclusive world looks like to you
- Must demonstrate involvement in some form of community service, along with a commitment to continued community service through their chosen field of study:
  - You must provide a letter of recommendation from an organization that you have volunteered/worked with **or**,
  - A letter from an educator speaking to your commitment to education and community

### Application:

1. Fill out the application form online: <https://www.centeraap.org/grants/scholarships/the-issam-and-rima-abbas-endowed-scholarship/>
2. Submit your statement of financial hardship, a copy of your (official or unofficial) high school transcript, upload your short essay, and upload your letter of recommendation

#### **Statement of Financial Hardship**

Financial hardship occurs when a person or family struggles to make payments toward debt or bills or have expendable funds for things like college tuition. The statement of financial hardship will be entered in the online application form; your response is kept confidential. Your statement must be 1-2 sentences demonstrating your financial hardship, such as, "My parents are often making ends meet due to providing for myself, my siblings, as well as my grandmother who lives in the basement."

#### **Copy of High School Transcript**

Please upload a copy of your high school transcript (official or unofficial). It is preferred to receive a digital copy of your transcripts to your application, but if you wish to submit your transcripts directly, please mail to:

**ATTN: Mikala Cox**  
**The Issam and Dr. Rima Abbas Endowed Scholarship**  
**2651 Saulino Court**  
**Dearborn MI 48120**

**Short Essay**

Submit an essay of 300-400 words, double-spaced pages, size 12 font, with 1-inch margins, answering the following questions:

**Issam and Dr. Rima Abbas, along with their three children, believed deeply in the power of higher education and its ability to change the world. Please describe the following:**

- What it means to you to become an Issam and Dr. Rima Abbas Scholar
- A difference you would like to make in the world to help shape a brighter and more equitable future for all
- How do you see yourself continuing your commitment to ongoing community service in your future career?

**Demonstrate Involvement in Community Service**

Must demonstrate involvement in some form of community service by submitting one letter of recommendation. Your letter writer must explain their relationship to you and provide their contact information within the letter. You must submit either:

- A letter from an organization that you have volunteered/worked with **or**,
- A letter from an educator speaking to your commitment to education and community

If your recommender prefers to deliver their letters directly to the review committee without you reading them, please instruct them to upload the letter at this link:

<https://www.centeraap.org/grants/scholarships/scholarship-letter-of-recommendation-form/>

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Please direct any questions to Mikala Cox at [mcox@accesscommunity.org](mailto:mcox@accesscommunity.org).