

# THE MICHELL MERHIGE SCHOLARSHIP

Administered by The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

The Michell Merhige Scholarship honors a young woman who overcame great obstacles in her life and went on to graduate from college, establish a successful career, and give back to her community in numerous ways.

Michell was my adopted daughter. She came to me at 14, after being abused, neglected and homeless, placed in several foster homes and ultimately living in an orphanage for three years. Despite the difficulties and deprivation in her early life, she was a vibrant and positive person, a dedicated student, a loyal friend, a mentor to many, and a nucleus for good work.

Michell was killed by a drunk driver when she was 39, in the prime of her life, unable to finish the many projects she had undertaken. As a memorial to her spirit, I established this scholarship to help and encourage other students like her, young people who have overcome serious adversity and emerged with a strong desire to succeed.

**Marcy Mager (mother of Michell Merhige)**

**Scholarship Purpose:** To provide recognition and financial assistance to an FCPS graduating senior who demonstrates academic strength and potential, the ability to overcome adversity, and financial need. Priority will be given to those who have experienced homelessness, been in foster care, or lacked substantial family support.

**Award:** The Michell Merhige Scholarship is a one-time award of \$1,500 given to two students.

**Application Deadline:** Submit completed application and supporting materials to your Career Center Specialist by **DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY CCS.**

**College and Career Specialists:** Please forward all applications to the FCPS School Counseling office **for receipt by Thursday, March 4, 2021.**

## **Checklist of Items to Submit:**

- Part A: Applicant Information
- Part B: Student Essay
- Part C: Other Information (Optional)
- Part D: Teacher Recommendation Form
- Part E: Counselor Recommendation Form
- Unofficial Transcript
- Copy of birth certificate, passport, or alien registration card  
(Documented refugees and resident aliens are eligible for this scholarship).
- Student Aid Report (SAR) from FAFSA (or last year's tax report)

# THE MICHELL MERHIGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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## APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP

All of the following must be returned by DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY CCS, to your Career Center Specialist:

- Completed and signed application (Parts A-E)
- Personal Statement (Part B, **about** 350 words)
- Unofficial transcript
- Copy of birth certificate, passport, or alien registration card to document legal U.S. residency (Documented refugees and resident aliens are eligible for this scholarship)
- Student Aid Report (SAR) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - If unavailable, last year's tax form may be substituted
- Two recommendation forms (Parts D and E):
  - One form must be completed by a teacher.
  - One form must be completed by a counselor.
  - Optional: One additional recommendation form will be accepted from a person outside of school, who is not a family member. You may copy and use the teacher form for the additional recommendation should you choose this option.

Contact: Susie Statham with questions at: [SStatham@fcps.edu](mailto:SStatham@fcps.edu).

### How Recipients Are Chosen:

This scholarship is funded by the **Michell Merhige Scholarship Fund**, administered through **The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia**, and is paid directly to the recipient's college or university.

Applicants must complete all graduation requirements by the end of graduation (this includes August graduations) of their senior year to be considered for the **Michell Merhige Scholarship**.

Applicants of the **Michell Merhige Scholarship** must demonstrate the following eligibility criteria:

- Overcome difficult work/life experience
- Financial need
- Academic ability
- U.S. citizenship or legal residency

Additional considerations in the selection process include the applicant's:

- School involvement
- School attendance
- Mentoring or leadership roles
- Recommendation forms

*INCOMPLETE AND/OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.*

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ High School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation: Month/Year \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Activities, honors, clubs, and service organizations in which you have participated: (Use the back of this page if more space is needed).

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

**Post-Secondary Plans**

Career Goal (Please explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Schools Applied to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Schools Accepted to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**OTHER SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)**

You may use this space to provide any additional information you want the Scholarship Selection Committee to know. You may include information that will help the committee to understand your financial situation.

Applicant Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ High School \_\_\_\_\_

**TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM**

The form must be completed in its entirety

**To be completed by applicant:**

Return To: (Career Center Specialist) \_\_\_\_\_ Due By: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed by: (Teacher) \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by a teacher:**

The above student is interested in applying for the MICHELL MERHIGE SCHOLARSHIP. As part of the application process, the student must submit a recommendation form from a chosen teacher. Please complete and return this form by the date indicated above.

Please evaluate the student for the following characteristics: (your responses are confidential)

5=High    4=Above Average    3=Average (requires comment)    2=Marginal    1=Low

\_\_\_ Dependability (meets deadlines, completes assignments)

\_\_\_ Cooperation (works effectively with others)

\_\_\_ Flexibility (reacts well to new and unanticipated situations)

\_\_\_ Initiative (works well without constant supervision)

\_\_\_ Maturity (approaches studies and assignments seriously)

\_\_\_ Communication Skills (writes, speaks, listens well)

\_\_\_ Interpersonal Skills (relates well to all kinds of people)

\_\_\_ Academic Potential (is curious, thorough, interested in learning)

\_\_\_ Potential as a College Student (can handle academic rigor and variety of tasks)

Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Subject \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: You may also provide additional comments. Attach them to this page or use the other side.

**COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATION FORM**

The form must be completed in its entirety

**To be completed by applicant:**

Return To: (Career Center Specialist) \_\_\_\_\_ Due By: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed by: (Counselor) \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ SAT (out of 1600) \_\_\_\_\_ ACT (Composite Score) \_\_\_\_\_ TOEFL (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by a counselor:**

The above student is interested in applying for the MICHELL MERHIGE SCHOLARSHIP. As part of the application process, the student must submit a recommendation form from their counselor. Please complete and return this form by the date indicated above.

Please evaluate the student for the following characteristics: (your responses are confidential)

5=High    4=Above Average    3=Average (requires comment)    2=Marginal    1=Low

\_\_\_ Dependability (meets deadlines, completes assignments)

\_\_\_ Cooperation (works effectively with others)

\_\_\_ Flexibility (reacts well to new and unanticipated situations)

\_\_\_ Initiative (works well without constant supervision)

\_\_\_ Maturity (approaches studies and assignments seriously)

\_\_\_ Communication Skills (writes, speaks, listens well)

\_\_\_ Interpersonal Skills (relates well to all kinds of people)

\_\_\_ Academic Potential (is curious, thorough, interested in learning)

\_\_\_ Potential as a College Student (can handle academic rigor and a variety of tasks)

**Counselors: Please attach a transcript and attendance record, and sign below to indicate that all information on this page, to include GPA and test scores, is accurate.**

Counselor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor Email \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: You may also provide additional comments. Attach them to this page or use the other side.