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**James A. Davis Jr. Memorial Scholarship**

**Background**

Roosevelt Alumni for Racial Equity (RARE) was formed by a group of multiethnic alumni from RHS in response to the upheaval following the killing of George Floyd and renewed concern over issues of systemic racism. It began as a discussion forum on Zoom, where members reflected on their own personal experiences and addressed the causes of racism in the US and how to overcome them. Subsequently the group decided to take on two projects: make a documentary film about the voluntary busing program that brought students of color to Roosevelt in the late 1960s and early 1970s, with personal stories of participants and of the remarkable convening of RARE 50 years later; and establish the James A Davis Jr Memorial Scholarship for students of color at RHS.

More information about RARE is available on its website: <https://www.rhs4racialequity.org/>

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the James A. Davis Jr. Memorial Scholarship is to recognize and financially support the educational goals of students of color at Roosevelt High School who need financial support and have demonstrated a commitment to learning and who foster an attitude and atmosphere of racial equity.

**Criteria Statement**

The James A. Davis Jr. Memorial Scholarship is available to graduating students of color at Roosevelt High School who are planning to attend a college, trade, or professional school. The scholarship will be open to students of color who need financial support. Candidates will be evaluated on their contribution to racial equity and their demonstration of a commitment to further education.

**James A. Davis Jr. RHS Alumnus, Class of 1971**

James A. Davis Jr. was a voluntary racial transfer student at Roosevelt High School from 1968 to 1971, where he became a leader among his peers. He served as senior class vice president, was a leader in Junior Achievement, played varsity football, and played clarinet in the marching band. Throughout his life James always showed his love of family and friends, respect for others as his equal, and dedication to his faith. At Roosevelt he reached across racial lines developing meaningful relationships with all students, no matter what their backgrounds. He passed away in 2013.

**Selection Process (Academic year ‘23-‘24)**

* Two scholarships of $5,000 each are awarded every spring.
* Applications, including 2 letters of support (see application form), should be turned into the RHS Counseling Office and are due on February 26, 2024.
* RHS staff will review the applications and forward the applications of their top recommended candidates to the scholarship selection board of Roosevelt Alumni for Racial Equity (RARE) in early March. Candidates will be interviewed via Zoom by the RARE Scholarship Selection Board near the end of the month.
* Final selection will be made and announced during the last week of March 2024.
* The funding will be available for use by scholarship winners for tuition payments and other direct educational expenses for up to two years after graduating from RHS. Seattle Promise students may delay receiving their award until they enter a 4-yr college after finishing their studies at a Seattle College.

**Application for the James A Davis Jr Scholarship (RARE)**

**Submit to RHS Counseling Office**

**Note: Please be sure to submit at least 2 letters of recommendation with this application sent separately to the Roosevelt High School Counseling Department. At least one letter must be from an RHS staff member. The second letter may be from an RHS staff member or a community organization member who knows you well and can evaluate your qualifications for this scholarship. Give the letter writing guide that you will find at the end of this application to the letter writer. It asks them to include your activities that promote racial equity.**

**Your Name:**

**Pronouns:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

**Phone Number:**

**Please describe your educational goals, including what subjects you hope to study and what career path you are considering.**

**What college, university, trade school, or professional training program do you hope to attend, and what degree/certification do you hope to earn?**

**What is your current grade point average at RHS?**

**Please describe your involvement in RHS activities. Include your leadership roles (if any) and what you learned from your experiences that you will carry with you.**

**Please describe your involvement in community activities outside of RHS: volunteer work, political activism, participation/leadership in community groups and organizations advancing racial equity.**

**What does racial equity mean to you and why is it important?**

**In what ways have you advanced racial equity at RHS? Please give specific examples.**

**Please describe how your interactions with RHS students, faculty and staff of other ethnicities have made a difference in your life.**

**What jobs have you held while attending RHS, if any, and how much time have spent working at them?**

**What other information about yourself would you like to share with us? (This might include family responsibilities or other activities or obligations that we have not specifically asked about.)**

**Signature: Date:**

**Received by: Date:**

ROOSEVELT ALUMNI FOR RACIAL EQUITY

LETTERS OF REFERENCE GUIDE

TO BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO YOU ASK TO WRITE A LETTER OF REFERENCE

For the James A Davis Jr Scholarship Application

Thank you for taking the time to write a letter of reference for the Roosevelt High School senior who is applying for the James A Davis Jr Scholarship sponsored by Roosevelt Alumni for Racial Equity (RARE). We realize that you may have already written a letter of reference for this student, but we also want to make sure that the letter includes a description and/or evaluation of the student’s leadership or participation in promoting racial equity at RHS or the greater community.

If your original letter of reference did not address that topic, would you be so generous as to add a paragraph about the student’s activities in that area. The letters of reference should be submitted to Carrie Richard, RHS counselor, no later than Feb 26, 2024. You do not need to write a whole new letter. This statement may be an addendum to the letter of reference that you may have already written or have prepared for the student.

We want every applicant to have the opportunity to highlight their work in racial equity. James A Davis, RHS ’71, was a student who encouraged his peers to participate in the volunteer busing program of the 1970’s and became a respected leader in school government while at Roosevelt. RARE would like to offer scholarships to current seniors who possess that same active spirit and commitment to racial equity in our world.

Thank you so much!

Maggie Lewis, Chair of RARE Scholarship and Awards Committee