

2015 WRN Drive to Succeed Scholarship Program Application

Background

The GM Women's Retail Network (WRN) Drive to Succeed Scholarship Program is offered to help increase the number of women pursuing careers as a general, executive or departmental manager; or, an owner/operator of an automotive dealership. A limited number of scholarships will be awarded for the 2015 academic year in amounts up to \$5,000.

Eligibility

To be considered for a GM Women's Retail Network Drive to Succeed Scholarship, a student must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be female
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED
- Must be able to verify enrollment at the beginning of the 2015 fall term
- Must be a citizen of the United States or have the ability to accept permanent employment in the US without the need for visa sponsorship now or in the future
- Must be enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate or non-traditional educational institution that offers formal programs or certifications in automotive retail and/or automotive service;

OR,

Currently employed at an automotive dealership and enrolled in an educational institution that offers formal programs or certifications that advance your career within automotive retail.

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated on the strength of their academic performance, leadership and participation in school and community activities, work experience, career and educational aspirations, and on the strength of their personal statement. Financial need will also be taken into consideration.

Selection Procedure

All completed applications that are received by April 15, 2015 will be reviewed against the program criteria by a selection process determined by the program administrators. All applicants will receive notification of the selection committee decision by May 29, 2015. Decisions are final and binding. Should you have questions, you may contact us at 1-630-428-2412 or by email at wrnscholarshipinfo@gmsac.com.

Instructions to Applicants

- Read the application carefully and complete all sections.
- Submit two (2) recommendations – one from each of the following categories:
 - Past/current employer, academic instructor/school official or community/civic leader on official letterhead.
 - GM dealership representative (owner, operator, manager). **NOTE:** See GM Dealer Recommendation section on page 5 of the application form for more details. A listing of GM dealers may be found at: www.gm.com/vehicles/dealer
- Include – or request to have sent – an official transcript from your most recent educational institution.
- You must forward a copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR) including your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the information you provided on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Sign the last page of this application.
- Mail completed application to the WRN Drive to Succeed Scholarship Program at the address on page 5 of the application form.
- All applications must be received by April 15, 2015.

Instructions to Recommenders

- Please provide an assessment of the applicant's academic strengths, work experiences, leadership abilities and other attributes based upon your knowledge and interaction with the applicant. If possible, please comment on the student's interest and abilities to be successful in the automotive retail and/or automotive service field.
- Letters of recommendation must be on official letterhead, signed by the recommender and include the recommender's position and/or title.

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Please Note: This application is not complete without the following: (See “Instructions to Applicants” on page 1)

- A completed and signed application form
- A letter of recommendation from an appropriate school official, employer or community/civic leader
- A GM dealer (or designate) recommendation signature
- An official transcript from your most recent educational institution
- A copy of the requested FAFSA information

Student Profile (Please type or print)

Last Name: First Name: MI:

Permanent Street Address: Apt:
City: State: County: ZipCode:

Daytime Phone: Email Address:

Birth Date: U.S. Citizen: YES NO

Gender (optional): Female Male

Ethnicity: African-American Hispanic Native American Asian/Pacific Islander Caucasian Other:
Optional – Used for Statistical Purposes Only

Check all that apply:

Graduating High School Senior: Class of 2015

Current College Student

Military Service

(Branch: Active Honorably Discharged

Non-Traditional Student (over 25 years of age)

Dependent of a GM Employee

Dependent of Automotive Dealership Owner

Dependent of Automotive Dealership Employee

Current GM dealership employee

Post-secondary degrees and/or certificates:

Please list educational institution(s) and
corresponding degrees/certificates

Other:

High School Profile

High School Name:

Location:

H. S. Graduation Date: H. S. Cumulative GPA: on a 4.0 scale
or

GED Completion Date:

College / Accredited Program Profile (where you will be attending in the fall of 2015)

College / Accredited Program Name:

Location:

Intended Area of Study: Degree Program: Yes No Certificate Program: Yes No

Program Length: Expected Graduation/Completion Date:

Class Status: FR SO JR SR Grad Student Other
(for fall term 2015)

Cumulative College GPA: on a 4.0 scale (If returning college student)

Intended enrollment: Full-time Part-time Other:

Estimated Tuition: \$

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Personal Profile

In the space below, please describe your experiences/contributions for each area, providing dates and length of activities where appropriate. **OR**, you may attach a student profile or resume provided it addresses the areas below. If you wish, you may provide additional comments on a separate sheet; however, those comments must be formatted using the same headings as below.

Work Experiences

Leadership Experiences

Honors and Awards Received

Community / Volunteer Activities

Career Goals (Describe your personal career goals for when you graduate and how you plan on getting yourself to that position.)

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Personal Statement

The retail automotive business offers exciting opportunities and challenges. Once regarded as “a man’s business”, today some 1000 women in the US are successful dealer owners/operators; and many more have found very satisfying careers as Executive Manager/Directors and staff employees in sales, service and parts operations within dealerships. Please provide a personal statement to help the scholarship committee better understand your interest and motivation to pursue a career in the automotive retail and/or automotive service sector, why you should be considered for scholarship support and any other information that may be of importance to the selection committee in their review of your application. (Please keep your response to 500-750 words.)

What do you think the retail automotive industry can do differently to improve both the customer sales and service experience?

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Application Availability

Please indicate where you **first learned** of this scholarship program:

GM Dealer (Dealership Name, City and State)

Website (Website Name)

Poster / Flyer (Where Posted)

Guidance / Career Counselor (School Name)

Other (Please Specify)

GM Dealer Recommendation

A general recommendation from a GM dealer (owner, operator or manager) is a requirement of this application. The applicant's request for a general recommendation from a dealer should be honored based on the applicant's ability to express an interest in the automotive retail and/or automotive service field.

Your signature below verifies that this applicant has presented her completed application to you and that the applicant has expressed her interest in pursuing a career in automotive retail and/or automotive service.

Optional: If you wish to provide a more detailed letter of recommendation, please do so using dealership letterhead and mail to the address listed below. Please note that the recommendation must be received no later than April 15th. (Refer to Instructions to Recommenders on page 1 of this application for more information)

Dealership Name (print)

Recommender's Name (print)

Recommender's Title (print)

Recommenders Signature

Date

Dealership BAC

Release Authorization

I certify that the information in this application is true, complete and accurate. I understand that any inaccurate information of a substantial nature provided as a part of this application will result in disqualification. I hereby voluntarily grant my college/university permission to confirm and/or verify information to the GM Women's Retail Network and/or their agents for the purpose of the scholarship selection. If selected as a scholarship recipient, I grant permission for my name, information, image or likeness to be used in press releases, websites, publications or other media outlets identifying me as a recipient of the General Motors Women's Retail Network Scholarship Program.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian Signature (if applicant is under 18 years of age)

Date

Check List

Please check each of the following before submitting your application.

Complete and Signed Application

Enclosed

Letter of Recommendation (School, Employer, Community/Civic Leader)

Enclosed

GM Dealer Recommendation (signed above or optional separate letter)

Acknowledged above or Enclosed

Official Transcript

Enclosed To be forwarded directly from my school

Copy of Completed FAFSA Application

Enclosed

Mailing Information

Application with requested attachments must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2015 and mailed to:

WRN Drive to Succeed Scholarship Program
c/o Charitable Management Systems, Inc.
PO Box 648
Naperville, IL 60566

Fax: 630-428-2695
Email: wrnscholarshipinfo@gmsac.com