

# **Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board**

## **Rules Governing The Albert Ragster, Sr. Scholarship Fund**

2025

## **I. ELIGIBILITY**

- A. First priority shall be given to applicants who have graduated from a Career and Technical Education Program in the Public Schools of the U.S. Virgin Islands
- B. Second priority shall be given to applicants who have not yet graduated from a Career and Technical Education Program, however, has graduated from a high school in the Virgin Islands. Furthermore, the application must meet the eligibility as outlined in applicable rules.
- C. An applicant must be a resident of the Virgin Islands.
- D. An applicant must be in need of financial assistance.
- E. An applicant must have an overall scholastic average of 2.75 or greater
- F. An applicant must show evidence of acceptance to an accredited institution of higher education (e.g. two years or four years programs or an accredited trade school with at least one year program).
- G. An applicant must pursue a program in Career and Technical education areas (e.g. Vocational Education teacher, agriculture, agriscience, agribusiness, natural resources, data processing, nursing, automotive technology, computer science technology, medical technology, etc.) No approval shall be granted to applicants who wish to pursue training in professional occupations beyond a Bachelors/BS degree in medicine, engineering, law, etc.

## **II. APPLICATIONS**

- A. All applications for a scholarship under the Albert Ragster, Sr. Scholarship shall be submitted to the Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board with supporting documents (Permanent Resident Card or proof of citizenship and original transcript).
- B. The applicant must submit a photocopy of his/her social security card.
- C. Three recommendation forms should accompany the application. One of the recommendations must be from a school, church, or community member. No recommendation from relatives will be accepted.
- D. The applicant must submit a letter of acceptance from an accredited Institution of higher learning.
- E. The applicant shall request his/her school to have an official copy of the academic transcript forwarded to the Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board.
- F. The applicant is required to submit to the Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board a 250-word essay.

**Essay Questions (select one):**

***How have your experiences in higher education shaped your academic and professional goals, and how do you plan to use your education to achieve these goals?***

***In what specific ways do you plan to contribute to the betterment of your community or society as a whole after completing your education?***

This essay has two components, first you will have to write an essay as usual, and secondly, for this year, you must support your essay with a VIDEO TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE ESSAY

your video should be you visibly talking about your essay content in detail. The finalist will be contacted for a live interview via TEAMS to answer questions from the BOARD.

**III. SCHOLARSHIP**

- A. The Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board reserves the right to select an applicant based upon considerations such as: financial need, community need for particular occupational training pursued; character references; and maturity.
- B. The Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board will discontinue a grant to an applicant who has poor scholastic performance, unsatisfactory moral character, or if the applicant does not pursue the approved program in which the grant was given.
- C. The Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board shall determine the amount an applicant shall receive to help defray educational costs based on the amount of money available and the number of eligible applicants.
- D. The Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board will grant awards on an Academic year basis. However, preferences will be given to new applicants each Academic year.
- E. The Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board shall issue a Promissory Agreement to be notarized before the release of funds.

Revised: March 2025