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SCC Madam C.J. Walker Scholarship, sponsored by Mary Kay, Inc.

New York, NY (April 14, 2026) — The Society of Cosmetic Chemists (SCC) is pleased to announce the acceptance of applications for the 2026 Madam C.J. Walker Scholarship. Two \$5,000 scholarships, sponsored by Mary Kay, Inc., will be awarded. The application period is now open and will close on May 31, 2026; visit scconline.org/WalkerScholarship.

"Honoring the industry and social contributions of Madam C.J. Walker through this program continues to shine a light on the value of diversity and inclusion," said Erica O'Grady, CAE, Chief Executive Officer of the Society. "We are extremely grateful for the continued commitment of Mary Kay, Inc. as we cultivate the next generation of scientific contributors."

Now in its fourth year with the generous support of **Mary Kay, Inc.**, the scholarship program supports specific under-represented minorities of any gender identity pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in STEM disciplines related to the cosmetics and personal care industry. Full eligibility rules and program details can be found at scconline.org/WalkerScholarship.

"We believe science is a powerful force for unlocking human potential and shaping a more inclusive future for women. Through our partnership with the Society of Cosmetic Chemists, we are not only honoring the extraordinary legacy of Madam C.J. Walker, we are helping to shape the next chapter for women scientists," said Dr. Lucy Gildea, Chief Brand and Scientific Officer at Mary Kay Inc. "By investing in diverse, passionate minds, we are fueling innovation, expanding representation, and empowering a new generation of scientists to transform our industry and the world beyond it. This work is deeply personal to us because when opportunity is made accessible, brilliance has no limits."

Awardees will be notified by the Scholarship Selection Committee by August 3, 2026. In addition to a \$5,000 scholarship, awardees will receive a travel voucher, complimentary accommodations, a student poster, and full access registration to attend the SCC 80th Annual Scientific Meeting & Showcase, November 30- December 2, 2026, in Los Angeles.

About Madam C.J. Walker

Madam C. J. Walker (born Sarah Breedlove; 1867-1919) was an American entrepreneur, philanthropist, and political and social activist. She is regarded as the first female self-made millionaire in America. Walker made her fortune by developing and marketing a line of cosmetics and hair care products for black women through the business she founded, Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company. At the time of her death, she had helped create the role of the 20th Century, self-made American businesswoman; established herself as a pioneer of the modern black haircare and cosmetics industry; and set standards in the African American community for corporate and community giving. Learn more at madamcjwalker.com/about.



About SCC

Now in its 80th year, the SCC is the oldest and largest non-profit membership organization serving the cosmetics and personal care industry. Dedicated to the advancement of cosmetic science, SCC headquarters provides unparalleled education, resources, and networking for more than 5,400 members globally and via 19 chapters across Greater North America. Visit www.scconline.org for more information.

About Mary Kay Inc.

One of the original glass ceiling breakers, Mary Kay Ash founded her dream beauty brand in Texas in 1963 with one goal: to enrich women's lives. That dream has blossomed into a global company with millions of independent sales force members in 40 markets. For over 60 years, the Mary Kay opportunity has empowered women to define their own futures through education, mentorship, advocacy, and innovation. Mary Kay is dedicated to investing in the science behind beauty and manufacturing cutting-edge skincare, color cosmetics, nutritional supplements, and fragrances. Mary Kay believes in preserving our planet for future generations, protecting women impacted by cancer and domestic abuse, and encouraging youth to follow their dreams. Learn more at marykayglobal.com, find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#), or follow us on [X](#).