

The SCC Madam C.J. Walker Scholarship

Generously sponsored by **MARY KAY**



2026 PROGRAM INFORMATION & DETAILS

The Society of Cosmetic Chemists' Madam C.J. Walker Scholarship, generously sponsored by Mary Kay, signifies SCC's support of under-represented individuals (Black/Brown/African American, Native American/American Indian/Indigenous Peoples, or Hispanic/Latin American) of any gender pursuing an undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate degree in STEM disciplines related to the cosmetics and personal care industry.



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 about her legacy at madamcjwalker.com/about.

Two (2) scholarships, in the amount of \$5,000 USD each (sponsored by Mary Kay), will be awarded to two (2) under-represented individuals (Black/Brown/African American, Native/American Indian/Indigenous Peoples, or Hispanic/Latin American) applicants of any gender pursuing an undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate degree in chemical, physical, medical, pharmaceutical, biological, or related STEM disciplines related to the cosmetics and personal care industry.

Scholarship awardees will be invited to be recognized and accept a ceremonial scholarship check at the SCC Awards Breakfast on Wednesday, December 2nd in Los Angeles. In addition to the scholarship, SCC will provide each awardee: a complimentary Full Access Registration to attend the SCC 80th Annual Meeting & Showcase in Los Angeles, CA, December 1-2, 2026; a \$350 travel voucher; two (2) nights complimentary accommodation at the host hotel; and a complimentary student poster at the Showcase, where they are eligible to win additional prizes in the student poster competition.

Selected finalist(s) will be invited to be recognized at the SCC Awards Breakfast on Wednesday, December 2nd in Los Angeles. SCC will provide each invited finalist: a complimentary Full Access Registration to attend the SCC 80th Annual Meeting & Showcase in Los Angeles, CA, December 1-2, 2026; a \$350 travel voucher; one (1) night complimentary accommodation at the host hotel; and a complimentary student poster at the Showcase, where they are eligible to win prizes in the student poster competition.

About Mary Kay

Then. Now. Always. 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 an international company with millions of independent sales force members in more than 35 countries. For 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, and find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#), or follow us on [X](#).

About SCC

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 5,000+ members globally and via 19 chapters across Greater North America. Visit www.sconline.org for more information.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee is generally comprised of up to five (5) SCC members appointed by President; the current President of the Society; Mary Kay representative(s); and others deemed appropriate in the sole discretion of the Society's of Board of Directors.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION WINDOW & DEADLINE

The Application period will open on Friday, April 10, 2026, and close at 11:59pm ET on Sunday, May 31, 2026. Completed applications and all supporting materials, including transcripts and recommendation letters, must be received by 11:59pm EDT on Sunday, May 31, 2026. Applications and/or support materials received after this date will not be considered. Ensure you provide a valid email address in your application; you will receive an auto-reply email confirming receipt of your online application.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants:

- **Must be currently enrolled full-time** (12 or more credits per semester) in an undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate degree program at an accredited college or university located in the United States or Canada.
- **Must be an under-represented individual, as defined** (Black/Brown/African American, Native American/American Indian/Indigenous Peoples, or Hispanic/Latin American), of **any gender**.
- **Must be pursuing an undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate degree** in one of the following majors: chemical, physical, medical, pharmaceutical, biological, or relative STEM disciplines related to the cosmetics and personal care industry.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants shall provide completed information as follows for consideration; incomplete applications will NOT be considered.

1. **Completed online application**, including:
 - a. Statement/description of how you embody the spirit and legacy of Madam C.J. Walker
 - b. Statement of your accomplishments and your career goals/professional development plan
 - c. Statement/description of your aspirations and potential impact to the cosmetics and personal care industry
 - d. Personal statement describing why you are deserving of the scholarship and how it will help you achieve your goals
 - e. **Two (2) letters of recommendation**, not to exceed 2 pages each, addressing your academic performance, potential, and career aspirations. *These must be uploaded in PDF format as part of your online application.*
2. The following should be **provided via email to jlewis@scconline.org**:
 - a. Applicant's **official current transcript with GPA** (*ensure you provide sufficient time for your academic institution to meet the submission deadline*)

SELECTION OF AWARDEES, FINALISTS, AND DECISION

Scholarship awardee(s) and finalist(s) will be chosen by the Madam C.J. Walker Scholarship Selection Committee based on the information submitted. **The Selection Committee's decision is final, and non-appealable.**

INFORMATION VERIFICATION

The Selection Committee reserves the right to verify the accuracy of any information received or obtained related to any applicant; by submitting an application, you are giving the Selection Committee permission to do so.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE NOTIFICATION

Applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision **on or before August 3, 2026.**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD/FUNDING DISBURSEMENT DETAILS

Each selected awardee will receive \$5,000 USD in scholarship funds, generously sponsored by Mary Kay. **Scholarship funds will be available for disbursement on or before August 15, 2026, paid directly to the awardee's educational institution only.** Funds must be applied toward costs of tuition, research, books, or other expenses appropriate to their undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate studies, at the discretion of their academic advisor.

ONE-TIME/NON-RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP

The Madam C.J. Walker Scholarship is a **one-time, non-renewable** scholarship. Awardees are excluded from applying for Madam C.J. Walker scholarship funds in subsequent years.

SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST/INSTRUCTIONS

Below is a checklist of information needed for a complete application. Your application shall be considered incomplete if all requested information is not received by the Selection Committee by the stated deadline (11:59pm EDT on Sunday, May 31, 2026).

Application: A completed online application form with all required information, including:

Educational Background: A list of relevant information, in chronological order, with most current data first. Include the name(s) of the institution(s), highest degree(s) attained, and years of attendance.

Work or Volunteer Experience: A list of your work and/or volunteer experience.

Academic Achievements, Honors/Awards: A list of relevant academic and/or service awards.

Association Activities: A list that includes the national, local, and/or school association or club name(s), date(s) of membership, and any office(s) held and/or committee(s) served on.

Personal Statements:

- a. Statement regarding how you embody the spirit and legacy of Madam C.J. Walker.
- b. Statement of your accomplishments and your career goals/professional development plan.
- c. Statement of your aspirations and potential impact to the cosmetics and personal care industry.
- d. Statement describing why you are deserving of the scholarship and how it will help you achieve your goals.

Letters of Recommendation (2): Provide two (2) letters of recommendation from separate sources which include the signatory's mailing address, telephone number, and a valid e-mail address. Each recommendation letter should not exceed 2 pages. **Recommendation letters must be uploaded at the time your application is submitted.**

Official Transcript: An official copy of your current transcript from your education institution, with grade point average, must be received by 11:59pm ET on 5/31/26. Transcripts should be sent electronically to jlewis@scconline.org.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- **Prepare your statements prior to starting the application process online.** Draft them in a word document where you can copy and paste them. Please note, the maximum CHARACTER limit for each statement is 2,000 (including spaces). Do not use AI-generated content; the most highly rated statements are personal and convey your experiences, story and journey.
- **Request your recommendation letters as soon as possible.** Give your recommenders plenty of time to write a thoughtful letter on your behalf. The strongest recommendations will typically come from an Academic Advisor, Research Coordinator, Professor, Success Coach, Mentor, HS Counselor, or current SCC member. Convert them to PDF format *before* you start the application process.
- **DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST DAY to submit your application.** Technical issues or malfunctions sometimes happen, and we *do not* have weekend support available. Technical issues can be addressed 9a-5p ET, Monday through Friday *only*.
- **It is your sole responsibility to ensure that all deadlines are met.** SCC will neither accept nor consider any late or incomplete submissions, regardless of reason.

QUESTIONS

Questions regarding the process or your application status may be directed to Jennifer Lewis at jlewis@scconline.org with the subject line "MCJW Scholarship" or by calling Jen at 646-545-3520.