



WYOMA BEST & SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Wyoma Best, who worked for WROC-TV (Channel 8) and WHEC-TV (Channel 10), is Rochester's first female black reporter, anchor and talk show host. She was a courageous reporter and her work as a journalist helped the FBI to recover a Picasso painting stolen from Memorial Art Gallery. She is also the first black woman to serve on the Rochester Board of Education. Mrs. Best was a business leader and was the first black female manager at the Greater Rochester Metro Chamber of Commerce when she was vice president of communications. Wyoma retired as vice president of communications for the Rochester Business Alliance after more than 25 years in the spotlight of politics, television and business. A mother of two daughters and wife to retired engineer Robert P. Best, Wyoma created a scholarship for future journalists. The Wyoma Best Scholarship was created in 2005 to help future journalists attending colleges and universities in the Rochester area. Rochester Mayor William A. Johnson Jr. proclaimed June 1, 2005 Wyoma Best Day. Rochester Association of Black Journalists is a chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, which aims to improve diversity in media organizations and news stories.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Wyoma Best Scholarship for Future Journalists is awarded annually to a local student who is a journalism major and is currently accepted to an accredited college/university. For more detailed information and to obtain the application, send an email to: rhonda.rabj@gmail.com. The application deadline is **May 31, 2017 by 5:00 p.m.**



Wyoma Best Scholarship for Future Journalists 2017

Scholarship Value: \$500.00

Classifications: Graduating High School Senior.

Minimum GPA: 3.0 on a 4 point scale. (**Official school transcript** must be submitted with application materials)

Eligible Majors: Journalism, Communications, TV and Radio Broadcasting

Eligible Schools: Any Rochester-area high school

Eligible Locations: Resident of Monroe County and surrounding areas.

Application Deadline: May 31, 2017 by 5:00 p.m.

How to Apply: For more detailed information and to obtain the application, send an email to: rhonda.rabj@gmail.com. **ALL** materials must be postmarked by May 31, 2017 and mailed with **all supporting materials requested:** to the Rochester Association of Black Journalists, P.O. Box 60210 Rochester, New York 14606. For more information, go to our Facebook page.

Scholarship Detail: The Rochester Association of Black Journalists has established a scholarship to assist deserving students who are majoring in, or planning to major in, a field of study leading to a career in print, or broadcast journalism. Recipients must complete an application, submit a written essay on a topic chosen by RABJ, and demonstrate the qualities of good citizenship, scholarship and commitment to advancing public understanding of issues faced by people of color via the media.

Part I - List key academic and extra-curricular activities you have undertaken that relate to your intended major. You must show your involvement in giving back to the community through volunteerism. Provide a letter from a person stating exactly what you did, for how long, and how often on the organization or agencies letterhead. Attach copies of **all supporting documents**.

Part II - Write a 150-word narrative statement describing your personal background and explain in detail why you want to go into journalism. Indicate factors about yourself that make you uniquely qualified to receive the RABJ Wyoma Best Scholarship.

Part III - Essay Questions – Write a 250 word response to each question.

1. How do you think the current digital world we live in affects journalism in its traditional form?

2. What are your ideas on how traditional TV news and newspapers can evolve to be attractive to younger audiences like yourself?

First and Last Name: _____

School Attending: _____

Student Class or Grade Classification: _____

Field of study: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Personal E-mail: _____

Mailing Address (if different from home address): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Print, fill out and mail application with written essay and **ALL** other supporting materials to:

RABJ Wyoma Best Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 60210
Rochester, NY 14606