

THE  
WILFRED X. "SPIKE" JOHNSON  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Wilfred X. "Spike" Johnson was elected to Connecticut's General Assembly in 1958, making him the first African American to hold that office. Representative Johnson was the first to hold several positions in his career in Hartford, succeeding in an era in which African Americans did not yet enjoy the economic and political opportunities that we tend to take for granted today. Indeed, his election as State Representative may be taken as the beginning of a new era.

With the election of the first Latino, Jose Lugo in 1983, the Legislative Black and Latino Caucus was organized in order to galvanize support for city issues and to help concentrate legislative efforts towards improving our communities.

Thus, more than twenty one years after the Legislative Black and Latino Caucus was organized, it was fitting that the Caucus named its scholarship program for one of the two founding members and a true pioneer.

In 1991, the new scholarship was used to support postgraduate work for two outstanding African American college graduates. One pursued further study in the traditional sense. The other, a filmmaker, used her award to support a film project.

Currently, the Caucus is using the scholarship funds to support students in purchasing textbooks. These award recipients are a mix of college students in state universities, private liberal arts colleges, and high school graduates from traditional and magnet schools. Their interests are varied, as are their backgrounds.



