



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel. (860) 240-8330
Fax (860) 240-0315
E-Mail: lprac@cga.ct.gov
Web Site: www.cga.ct.gov/lprac

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Associate Commission Analyst
Orlando Rodríguez

Administrative Assistant
Clarisa Cardone

April 21, 2016

Dear Students:

The Connecticut General Assembly's Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission is currently accepting applications from Adult Learners who have received their GED to be considered for the 2016 Antonia Pantoja** Scholarship. The Ceremony for award is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2016 in the Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol located at 210 Capitol Avenue in Hartford, CT.

Attached are the criteria to be followed along with the application form for use in formally applying for the scholarship. Please carefully review the criteria and submit all requested information. *Dreamers are also eligible to apply for this scholarship award. The application must be submitted in its entirety as we will not accept an incomplete submission. You must be of Latino heritage in order to be considered for the award.

The deadline for submission of the completed application is Friday, June 24, 2016. This deadline will not be extended. Thank you for your participation with the Commission's programs and feel free to contact us at 860-240-8330 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Cruz

Richard A. Cruz
Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Special Projects Committee Members

**"DREAMers" is named after the DREAM ACT that failed to pass Congress in 2010 which was proposed as a way for young immigrants without immigration papers to gain legal status if they pursue college among other requirements.

**See attached biography

Antonia Pantoja Scholarship Award for GED Applicants

Send completed applications to:

Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Complete applications can also be scanned & emailed to: lucy.hernandez@cga.ct.gov
or faxed to: 860-240-0315
Phone: 860-240-8330

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

- Be of Latino/a Heritage
- Have received the GED
- If you have never attended college and have obtained a GED, provide proof that you obtained a 5.80 GED Equivalency with combined modules
- Be a Connecticut Resident
- If you have completed at least one semester of College or University, provide proof that you obtained a minimum 2.8 GPA.
- Have a demonstrated financial need for this scholarship

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Application Deadline is June 24, 2016

Application must be received or postmarked by this date.

1.	Completed Application Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Completed Essay	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	(1) Letter of Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Copy of GED	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	First page of your Student Aid Report (SAR) <i>Printed after completing your FAFSA.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Resume: <i>including work experience, extracurricular activities, home responsibilities, honors, awards, and organizations you participate in.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Letter of Acceptance from Accredited College or University	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Most recent copy of your tax return*	<input type="checkbox"/>

**If you do not file a tax return, please fill out the attached affidavit, have it notarized and submit it with your application.*

ANTONIA PANTOJA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

For GED Applicants

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION: (Please print or type)

Last:	First:	Middle:		
Street Address:				
City or Town:	State:	Zip Code:		
Phone Number:				
Email Address:				
Date of Birth:	Place of Birth:			
Gender:	Ethnicity:			
College currently attending:		Graduation date:		
College, City / State:				
Are you currently in college?:				
What year will you be next fall?:	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
GPA:				
Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from your FAFSA:				
Number of family members in your house at the time of this application (including yourself):				
Number of family members in your house that will be enrolled in college next year:				

II. ESSAY (Max two-pages, double spaced, 12pt font)

1. What will Attending College do for you and your family? Attach your essay to this application and submit all of the requested information as well.

I hereby state that the answers in this application are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that, if given an award, I shall do my best to maintain standards for scholarship and conduct which will reflect credit on me, my college/university and the Connecticut General Assembly's Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission,

Student Signature

LPRAC - 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Date

860-240-8330

1. Are you a family member or household member of a Commissioner or Staff member of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission? Yes No (circle 1 answer)

2. Do you work for the State of CT? Yes No (circle 1 answer)
If so, please state the department name and your Supervisor.

3. Does any member of your family or household work for the State of CT? Yes No
If so, please state the department name and supervisor.

4. Are you a Public Official? Yes No (circle 1 answer)
If so, please state your title and department name.

5. Is a member of your family or household a Public Official? Yes No (circle 1 answer)
If so, please state the name, title, and department name of the Public Official.

*Note: Please refer to **DEFINITIONS** to help you answer the above questions.*

I hereby state that the answers contained in this statement are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY EXCLUSIONS

LPRAC Commissioners and LPRAC Staff are not eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants.

Family* and/or household** members of LPRAC Commissioners and LPRAC Staff are not eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants.

Public Officials*** and/or their family and/or household members are not eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants.

No state employee who reports directly to a public official shall be eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants. No family and/or household member of any state employee who reports directly to a public official shall be eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants.

Any individual who is employed by or works for the Connecticut General Assembly and/or any Commission of the Connecticut General Assembly is not eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants. Family and/or household members of any individual employed by or who works for the Connecticut General Assembly and/or any Commission of the Connecticut General Assembly are not eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants.

Exceptions to these Exclusions: Maintenance/Facilities workers, Kitchen/Cafeteria workers, and Security workers across the three branches of state government.

DEFINITIONS

***Family members:** Includes spouse, parents, children, siblings, half-siblings, step-siblings, grandparents, mother-in-law-, father-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, adopted members, half members, step members, foster children.

****Household members:** Includes family and non-family households. Two or more cohabiting individuals who are related by birth, marriage, civil union, or adoption, and other unrelated people residing in a housing unit. Includes cohabiting and/or unmarried people who share their residence with unrelated or related individuals.

***** Public Official:** Includes federal or state appointed or elected officials, including elected or appointed officials at the executive, legislative, or judicial branches of the State of Connecticut, any state-wide elected officer, any member or member-elect of the General Assembly, any person appointed to any office of the legislative, judicial or executive branch of state government by the Governor or an appointee of the Governor, any public member or representative of the teachers' unions or state employees' unions appointed to the Investment Advisory Council, appointed or elected by the General Assembly or by any member of either house, any member or director of a quasi-public agency and the spouse of the Governor. At the Municipal level a public official is a Mayor, First Selectman, First Selectwoman, or Town Manager.



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Antonia Pantoja Scholarship Awards Program

Financial Affidavit

I, the undersigned, student do hereby affirm that my annual income for _____(year) was \$_____ (amount).

Student Applicant's Signature

Acknowledgment for Individual

State of Connecticut

County of _____

On this the _____ day of _____, _____, before me, _____ (name of notary), personally appeared _____, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person(s) whose name(s) _____ (is or are) subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that _____ (he/she/they) executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand

Date: _____

Notary Public

Print Name: _____

My Commission Expires:



**Dr. Antonia Pantoja receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1997
from President Clinton**

Dr. Antonia Pantoja was a leader with a vision. She was the founder of and the inspiration for numerous organizations that addressed the social needs and educational aspirations of the Puerto Rican community and Latino youth. She was a leader, an activist, an educator, an author, and a social worker. Dr. Pantoja led by example and her legacy includes inspiring others to overcome life's hurdles and become successful leaders in their own right. She overcame obstacles through determination, discipline, and creativity. An energetic woman with a wonderful sense of humor Dr. Pantoja was also indomitable. Her work was recognized and appreciated by individuals, community leaders, and Presidents.

She was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1922. After receiving a teaching certificate from the University of Puerto Rico she worked as a schoolteacher for two years in Puerto Rico where she cultivated a profound interest in education and addressing the needs of disadvantaged children. She arrived in New York City in November 1944 where she got a job as a welder in a factory. During these years she was awakened to the harsh experience of racism and discrimination against Puerto Ricans in the United States. She saw education as the means to liberate herself and young Puerto Ricans from the constraints placed on them.

Dr. Pantoja attended Hunter College of the city of New York from where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1952. With financial assistance from the Antoinette Cannon and John Hay Whitney Foundations she went on to the Columbia University School of Social Work from which she received a Master's degree in 1954. She received a Ph.D. from the Union Graduate School in 1973.

As a graduate student at Columbia University Dr. Pantoja joined with others to create the Hispanic Youth Adult Association which later became the Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs (PRACA). In 1961 as a member of the Puerto Rican Forum, Inc., a group of young professionals, she founded ASPIRA. ASPIRA, under Dr. Pantoja's leadership, has

become one of the most effective organizations concerned about the high dropout rate of Hispanic students and the socio-economic conditions faced by the families of these students. The organization continues today as a leading national organization dedicated to education and leadership development of Latino youth.

In 1970 Antonia Pantoja developed the proposal and secured funds to establish the Universidad Boricua and the Puerto Rican Research and Resource Center. In 1978 as an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work, San Diego State University in collaboration with others she founded the Graduate School for Community Development in San Diego. In 1985 she organized PRODUCIR, a community organization in Puerto Rico that has helped a rural community create its own cottage industries to generate employment and other services.

She was involved in numerous other community and professional organizations throughout her life, all working towards the goals of building stronger communities and supporting her focus on Puerto Rican and minority communities. These organizations included the Ford Foundation, the National Urban Coalition, the National Association of Social Workers and the Council on Social Work Education.

Dr. Pantoja was the recipient of numerous awards perhaps the most notable of which is the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This medal awarded to her by President Clinton in 1997, is the highest honor the nation bestows on a civilian.

Her last book Memoir of a Visionary was a story about her life. At the time of her death she was working on a documentary about the history of the Puerto Rican community in New York City.

For further information, contact Alice Ricks at aliricks@naswdc.org