



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
BLACK PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS, INC.**



COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS, INC.

Chief Joseph L. Jones Scholarship 2024



Carrie Edwards-Clemons, International President
Gary Tinney, Executive Vice President

The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, Inc
900 Brentwood Rd. Unit 91104/ Washington DC 20090 / www.iabpf.org



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CHIEF JOSEPH L. JONES 2024 SCHOLARSHIP

The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, Inc. (IABPFF, Inc.) is proud to partner with Columbia Southern Education Group (CSEG) to present the Chief Joseph L. Jones Scholarship Award to a deserving member of the IABPFF, Inc. The scholarship will cover up to \$25,200 for one online degree program. The scholarship will be applied directly to the recipient's tuition for up to 60 semester hours or 36 consecutive months in the selected online degree program, whichever comes first. This scholarship covers tuition. The Joseph L Jones Scholarship will be awarded yearly.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a current member of the IABPFF, Inc. and hold a minimum of three consecutive years as a member in good standing.
- Applicant must be active in their community and local IABPFF, Inc. chapter.
- Have a high school transcript or equivalent (GED).
- Be available to begin coursework within 90 days of the date of the award.
- Capable of maintaining a 2.5 undergraduate GPA.
- Able to maintain continuous enrollment in his or her degree program.
- Current CSU students must meet all these requirements to be considered
- Graduate applicant with a GPA of 3.0 and above will be considered when no undergraduate applicants exist.
- Scholarship Recipient will be determined by IABPFF, Inc. Awards Committee.

Essay:

Applicants are required to submit a 1000-word minimum (2000-word maximum) essay on the following topic:

In the demanding job of firefighting, education stands as a beacon illuminating pathways to enhanced proficiency, innovation and safety. Firefighters shoulder a responsibility that transcends conventional duties, requiring a blend of practical expertise and intellectual acumen.

Discuss the role of education in enhancing your effectiveness, adaptability and leadership within the fire service. How do you envision utilizing your academic knowledge to navigate challenges, innovate strategies and promote safety within the firefighting profession?



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REMEMBERING CHIEF JOSEPH L. JONES



Joseph Lee Jones was the third of eight children born on February 19, 1953. He was educated in the St. Louis Public School system where he graduated from Vashon High School. In 1971, Joseph enlisted in the United States Army where he served three years and was honorably discharged in 1974.

On August 18, 1975, Joseph was hired by the St. Louis Fire Department. He was promoted to captain on July 22, 1984 and became a battalion chief on June 26, 2000. Throughout his career he was a part of the Firefighters Institute for Racial Equality (F.I.R.E.). Upon his promotion to Battalion Chief, he became a part of the St. Louis Black Chiefs organization an extension of F.I.R.E. at the chief level. In giving back for over 20 years to the Black firefighters' organization, Joseph was the leader with all of our recruitment training programs.

He taught potential recruits on the preparation of the entry-level test, the physical ability test, and the interview processes that they would encounter. Joseph trained and prepared IABPFF, Inc. members on the assessment center process, sat on numerous assessments for promotions throughout the United States to ensure fair and equitable treatment of all members being assessed for promotions.

After thirty-five years, Joseph retired from the St. Louis Fire Department. Even though Joseph retired from the department, he continued his work with the black firefighter's organization. To say that Joseph never forgot where he came from is an understatement because he exhibited it within his family, with the F.I.R.E. organization, the South Central Region and the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, Inc. (IABPFF, Inc.).

Chief Joseph Lee Jones departed this life on March 17, 2013 and he would be humbled to know that we are honoring him with this scholarship in his name.



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STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I _____ understand and agree to the following rules to determine eligibility to apply for the Joseph L. Jones Scholarship sponsored by Columbia Southern Education Group and the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, Inc. The scholarship award will be presented at the 2024 Convention Banquet in Miami, Florida. I understand and agree that any infraction of the rules will render me ineligible to compete or receive a scholarship from Columbia Southern University.

- I must submit an essay based on the required criteria
- I must submit a recent photograph (head shot)
- I agree that the decision of the scholarship committee shall be final and not challenged.

Applicant Signature

Date

Regional Director Signature

Date

Chapter President Signature

Date



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APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. One of the Columbia Southern Education Group institution, Columbia Southern University, will provide one online scholarship to the selected member of International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, Inc.
2. The name of this scholarship will be called the Chief Joseph L. Jones Scholarship.
3. **Scholarship Amount:** The online scholarship can be used at Columbia Southern University for a value of up to \$25,200, 60 semester hours, 36 months, or degree completion, whichever comes first. The scholarship will be applied: 1) after the evaluation results have been applied to the selected online degree program; 2) directly to the recipient's tuition for up to three years or until the completion of the selected online degree program, whichever comes first. The recipient may not switch to a different degree program during the scholarship award period. Textbooks will be the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.
4. **Scholarship Application Period:** The scholarship application period will open for the 2024 Chief Joseph L. Jones Scholarship **January 2, 2024**. All applications, scholarship essays, and transcripts, or color copy of diploma/degree (in lieu of transcript) and two (2) letters of recommendation must be received electronically no later than **11:59 P.M. on May 31, 2024**. The selection process will begin shortly thereafter. Applications and essays will be evaluated exclusively by the IABPFF, Inc. Award Committee whose decision is final. The scholarship award presentation will be on August 9, 2024 at the 2024 IABPFF, Inc. Biennial Convention in Miami, Florida.
5. **Scholarship Application Packet:** The scholarship application packet must include a 1000-word essay (minimum) with 2000 max, the completed Statement of Understanding, and a recent photo. The aforementioned packet must be submitted electronically via email. Essays must be submitted as a pdf document. Three essays will advance to the next step in the selection process. Applicants will be scored based on their knowledge of the subject matter, writing abilities and skills. Chapter Presidents and Regional Directors signatures are required for applications to be accepted. If there is not a chapter of the IABPFF, Inc. in your area then the Regional Director's signature will be accepted.



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Scholarship Essay Theme:

6. In the demanding job of firefighting, education stands as a beacon illuminating pathways to enhanced proficiency, innovation and safety. Firefighters shoulder a responsibility that transcends conventional duties, requiring a blend of practical expertise and intellectual acumen. Discuss the role of education in enhancing your effectiveness, adaptability and leadership within the fire service. How do you envision utilizing your academic knowledge to navigate challenges, innovate strategies and promote safety within the firefighting profession?
7. For more information, contact Deyhana Thompson at yhanabella@gmail.com or visit our website at www.iabpf.org.
8. Scholarship Eligibility: The scholarship applicant must: be an IABPFF, Inc. member for 3 + years; have a high school transcript or equivalent (GED); or color copy of diploma/degree; possess good character; as well as be involved in some type of extra-curricular activity, community service, church activity, or outside employment. Applicant should provide two (2) letters of recommendations. All scholarship essays must be typed, double spaced, 12 font and include page numbers and a title page. Title page must include the applicant's name, contact information, location, local chapter and region. Submission must be submitted via email at iabpffscholarship@gmail.com.
9. Organization Obligations: International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, Inc. will notify the recipient of the Joseph L. Jones Scholarship and via all IABPFF, Inc. media outlets. The Columbia Southern Education Group representative will present the scholarship award to the recipient at a time and location agreed upon by both organizations. The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, Inc. will collaborate with CSEG and agree to provide CSEG with the event details in a timely manner to allow for the appropriate travel preparation if necessary.



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10. Enrollment: The scholarship recipient is required to enroll no later than 90 days from the date of the award notification. The scholarship will remain active for 36 consecutive months from the start date provided on the enrollment, but regardless of the date of enrollment, the scholarship shall not exceed 36 months from the date of the award notification.
 11. Admissible Requirements: Scholarship recipients are required to maintain a minimum 2.5 undergraduate GPA and 3.0 graduate GPA. All scholarship applicants that are current students must meet the minimum GPA requirements of this scholarship in their current degree program to be eligible to apply.
 12. Compliance with University Rules: The recipient is expected to abide by all university rules, regulations, and guidelines explained in the student handbook.
 13. Termination: CSEG may terminate the scholarship offer if the proposed recipient does not reply by the offer deadline or does not comply with the provisions of this agreement.
 14. Transferability: The scholarship recipient does not have the right to transfer or assign his/her interest in the scholarship to any other party.

Entire Agreement: This agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties and there are no other promises or conditions in any other agreement either oral or written. This Agreement supersedes any prior written or oral agreements between both parties. This Agreement may be modified or amended if the amendment is made in writing and is signed by both parties. Please note that all scholarships are subject to yearly review.

CSU Website: columbiasouthern.edu

Additional scholarships offered may be viewed on the Columbia Southern University website.

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