



TITANS FOUNDATION

The Titan Foundation, established by the Coaches, Players, and Cheerleaders from the 1971 Virginia AAA State Champion Varsity Football Team of T. C. Williams High School, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping High School Students pursue post-secondary education. As a Named Scholarship of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, the Foundation provides educational support to eligible seniors from T.C. Williams High School in the form of a renewable grant for four years. The criteria for the grant are: demonstrated financial need, an overall grade point average of 2.5 or better and community leadership in the area of diversity understanding and integration.

Post-secondary education is critical to the development and growth of our community. Many students have the potential to excel academically, but lack the resources to pursue higher education. Providing this support the Titan Foundation is helping the community grow through the better education of its young people.

History of the 1971 Titans

T. C. Williams High School, Alexandria Virginia, named in honor of a former Alexandria Superintendent of Schools, opened its doors in 1965. The school has grown into one of the most respected, comprehensive public High Schools in the country. Well over 80% of the students go on to post-secondary education. T.C. has one of the most diverse student bodies in American with students from over 84 countries, speaking 56+ languages in its halls and classrooms.

In 1959, five years after the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court ruling that separate but equal schooling is inherently unequal and unconstitutional, Alexandria formally desegregated its public school system. But, inequities in the diversity of neighborhood populations caused the school system to slowly migrate toward racial imbalance. In 1971 the Supreme Court ruling on the Swann vs. Charolette-Mecklenburg Board of Education case legitimized busing as a method to achieve desegregation. Alexandria adopted the K6-2-2-2 Plan (Kindergarten through sixth grade at one school, two years in middle school, two years in Junior High School and finally two years in Senior High School) to bring racial and economic balance to its school system. Two High Schools, George Washington (GW) and Francis Hammond (FH) were

changed to Junior High Schools and T.C. Williams High School (TCW) became the Senior High School. All the city's freshman and sophomores were divided between GW and FH, all the juniors and seniors attended TCW.

This dramatic, sudden change caused a lot of tension and apprehension. As the only three High Schools in the City there had been strong rivalries and competition between the schools for the City and District Championships at all levels of academic and athletic competition. One of the strongest, bitterest rivalries was in football. As luck would have it, football, the ultimate team sport, would be the first big test of success or failure for the new system. Little did the football team know that they would set the tone for the entire community in a time of tension, conflict, and mistrust.

Under tough, uncompromising leadership the players developed a strong bond as a team through a common suffering which stripped away any prejudices based on race, economic status, or cultural beliefs. Their success and dominance on the field began to influence the rest of the school and the community. The community began to feel a bond on to itself, that together they could get through those turbulent times and make Alexandria a better place to live. The success of that team and the sense of community they helped foster are still subjects of discussion within the city today.

Titan Foundation Mission

Members of the T. C. Williams High School, 1971 State Champion Varsity Football Team, established the Titan Foundation in 2000 with the goal of providing scholarship funds to qualified T. C. Williams High School seniors for post-secondary education. These scholarships are provided to students who demonstrate leadership in the classroom and community and promote harmony across all racial and social boundaries. In addition, the Titan Foundation strives to provide the true story of their team and community by working with educators and students who have shown an interest in the factual story of the successful integration of the Alexandria High Schools.

How to Make a Contribution

Make Check payable to the
71Original Titans

Mail it to:

71 Original Titans
P. O. Box 23371
Alexandria, Virginia 22304
or

Make check payable to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, in the memo section identify the contribution is for the 71 Titan Scholarship and mail to:

The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria
C/o The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
1112 16th Street, NW, Suite 340
Washington, DC 20036

How to contact the Titan Foundation

or

The Alexandria Scholarship Fund:

www.71originaltitans.com

www.alexscholarshipfund.org

The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria is a fund of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, a private nonprofit, 501(c)(3), charitable organization. The Titan Foundation is a private nonprofit, 501(c)(3), charitable organization. Current financial statements are available through the Scholarship Fund of the Titan Foundation.