



EESI Launches Future Climate Leaders Scholarship

November 1, 2021—As part of its commitment to promote and advance **diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice**, the [Environmental and Energy Study Institute](#) (EESI) is announcing a new **scholarship for Future Climate Leaders**. EESI will award up to \$5,000 each academic year to an undergraduate student pursuing studies relevant to environmental, clean energy, and climate policy at a historically Black college or university (HBCU) in the mid-Atlantic or southern region. Applications can be submitted [here](#).

The EESI Future Climate Leaders Scholarship program is managed by [UNCF \(United Negro College Fund\)](#), a philanthropic organization that has raised more than \$5 billion over 77 years to provide financial support to 37 member HBCUs and to fund scholarships and other academic support programs for talented, deserving Black students.

"In its vision and mission, EESI has always been committed to **diversity, equity, and inclusion**—it's part of our DNA. Recent national events have crystallized this commitment into an even greater desire to make a real difference, and we therefore decided to do more to promote diversity in the environmental field," said EESI **Board Chair Jared Blum**.

"This initial grant is just a start. We hope to provide **greater opportunities for scholarship winners over time**: not only funding for their studies, but mentoring and career advice as well. We need to open doors," said EESI **Vice Chair Linda Church-Ciocci**, who is also the Chair of EESI's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

"I would like to congratulate our board for their vision and commitment to this initiative," said EESI **Executive Director Daniel Bresette**. "EESI can and must move the needle for diversity, equity, and inclusion in climate policy and advocacy, just as we try every day to advance climate solutions."

The first merit-based scholarship will be awarded in early 2022, with a possible renewal for another \$5,000 the following year. Applicants to the program will need to meet the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
- Be a sophomore or junior enrolled full-time at an HBCU in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, or West Virginia.
- Be pursuing a degree in a field of study relevant to environmental, clean energy, and climate policy (i.e., a declared major in biology, chemistry, ecology, engineering, environmental science or policy, history, physics, political science, or sociology).

For more information, please contact Amaury Laporte at alaporte@eesi.org or (202) 662-1884.

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The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (www.eesi.org) is an independent, non-profit organization advancing innovative policy solutions to set us on a cleaner, more secure and sustainable energy path. EESI educates policymakers, builds coalitions and develops policy in support of energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable biomass, sustainable buildings, and sustainable transportation. EESI was founded by a bipartisan Congressional caucus in 1984, and its strong relationship with Congress helps EESI serve as a trusted source of credible, non-partisan information on energy and environmental issues. EESI receives no congressional funding and is supported through contributions and grants.

UNCF (United Negro College Fund) is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. To serve youth, the community and the nation, UNCF supports students' education and development through scholarships and other programs, supports and strengthens its 37 member colleges and universities, and advocates for the importance of minority education and college readiness. UNCF institutions and other historically Black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding nearly 20% of African American baccalaureate degrees. UNCF administers more than 400 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship, mentoring, summer enrichment, and curriculum and faculty development programs. Today, UNCF supports more than 60,000 students at over 1,100 colleges and universities across the country. Its logo features the UNCF torch of leadership in education and its widely recognized trademark, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."[®] Learn more at UNCF.org or for continuous updates and news, follow UNCF on [Twitter at @UNCF](https://twitter.com/UNCF).