



## THE TERRANCE PORTIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:  
March 15, 2021**

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

- Incoming Freshman
- Financial Need  
**\*Must complete FAFSA by deadline**
- Full-time, traditional students
- African-American descent
- 3.0 GPA or higher
- Essay of 500-700 words on “How you will play a leadership role here at Walsh and how you intend to help yourself and those around you grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually as you move through this important time in your life.”

**\*Please do not remove cover sheet\***



Dear Student,

We are pleased that you are applying for the Terrance L. Portis Memorial Scholarship! But before you begin thinking about what you'll write as part of your application process, we'd like you to know a bit more about the man for whom this scholarship is named.

Terrance Portis (sometimes known as "TP"), a member of Deliverance Christian Church, was born in Akron, Ohio, on March 8, 1984, to Terry Amos and Cynthia Portis. In 2002, Terrance graduated from St. Vincent St. Mary High School, where he played football for the mighty Fighting Irish; as a result of his skill on the field, Terrance received a scholarship to attend Walsh University. He graduated from Walsh in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in sociology, whereupon he was employed by the University first as assistant to the director and then as Manager of the Academic Support Center, Walsh's tutoring lab, and was in the process of earning his master's degree in education when he passed away quite suddenly from an unknown ailment on January 25, 2012, aged only 27, leaving many family and friends to mourn him.

Well has it been said that "Only the good die young," as Terrance was a truly good man, committed to his work at Walsh University, not just in running the tutoring center, but in making a difference in the lives of young people who needed direction in life, just as he himself said he often did. A physically imposing but gentle person, he was forever preaching the power of knowledge and the need to keep learning, encouraging even the most embarrassed or uncomfortable students to come to get help, academic or otherwise, from those who could provide it. Terrance utilized students of color on Walsh's campus to help mentor young people in the Akron/Canton area. He was also actively involved with Walsh as an advisor to the SWATS ("Students With An Attitude To Succeed") team and to Walsh's Black Student Union. Not content to work just with students at Walsh, Terrance also created a youth program called AYIN: One God, One Love, to allow underserved and underrepresented youth the opportunity to experience various life activities from a faith-based perspective. Walsh recognized Terrance's outstanding work with young people when it named him the 2010-2011 Mentor of the Year.

Terrance's very life at Walsh was often the definition of mentorship. Never too busy to hear someone's concerns or to smooth over a complaint with a kind word, Terrance met students "where they were," showing a keen insight into the abilities, dreams, and fears of those who came to him seeking help, especially young men of color, whom Terrance believed could benefit the most from his own experience as a man of color navigating the ways of a predominantly white school. A deeply Christian man who knew love's power to plant the seeds of optimism, Terrance believed that *all* people had the potential to better themselves, and he dedicated himself to support the personal, intellectual, and spiritual development of our entire campus community one person at a time. Those of us who were fortunate enough to come under Terrance's wide wings believe that the impact he left on Walsh's campus and members of the community—especially the students—will (and should!) never be forgotten.

Since his death, the Mentor of the Year Award has been renamed in his honor to the Terrence Portis Mentor of the Year Award, and this scholarship, the Terrance L. Portis Memorial Scholarship, has been established in his honor.

Now that you know a little something about the man who inspired this essay, think about a way in which you can become a leader in service to others here at Walsh University, just as Terrance did. Once you've determined some specifics, write a 500 to 700 word statement in which you delineate how you will play a leadership role here at Walsh and how you intend to help yourself and those around you grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually as you move through this important time in your life.

**WALSH UNIVERSITY**  
THE TERRANCE PORTIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Do you plan to live on campus?  Yes  No

Are you of African-American descent?  Yes  No

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**ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

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Current Class Standing:  High School Senior

Anticipated Degree a Walsh \_\_\_\_\_

Program \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_

I will complete graduation requirements by \_\_\_\_\_

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**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

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Please list activities and organizations in which you have participated:

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**ESSAY** – Please attach a 500-700 word essay on: *How you will play a leadership role here at Walsh and how you intend to help yourself and those around you grown mentally, emotionally, and spiritually as you move through this important time in your life.*

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If selected for this scholarship, you have my permission to send a press release to local papers acknowledging my award. The local paper for my community is \_\_\_\_\_ Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*I agree that the information provided is true and I agree to allow the Scholarship Committee to verify any or all information with the appropriate campus offices.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return to Carmela Bendetta, Scholarship Coordinator, Email: [cbendetta@walsh.edu](mailto:cbendetta@walsh.edu)***  
Walsh University, 2020 East Maple Street, North Canton, OH 44720-3336 • Questions: 330-490-7596