

The W. Daniel Mills Theatre Scholarship Fund

About

William (Daniel) Mills was a student in the Montverde Academy Theatre Conservatory with an amazingly bright future ahead of him when his life was tragically cut short by an accident. As a truly gifted artist, Daniel was engrained in every aspect of the Conservatory, and a part of innumerable award-winning performances. Coming from a family of strong theatre supporters, it came as no surprise when, to honor Daniel's legacy, the Mills family presented the idea of this scholarship, in perpetuum, so other young, deserving, and talented students would have the opportunity to grow their talents and live their dreams as Daniel had within the walls of Montverde Academy's exceptional program. Seeing these students make their own memories, and knowing Daniel was a part of each of those stories, allows his story to be re-told for years to come, and his "gift" to live on.

Purpose

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance to deserving students (current or prospective) who have a demonstrated need for financial assistance to make an opportunity for participation in the Theatre Conservatory at the Academy possible.

Eligibility

Upper School students (and perspective students) who meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for the scholarship:

- Demonstrate strong academic standing in current and/or prior academic performance and remain so *while being a scholarship recipient*.
- Have strong character and integrity and maintain an honorable citizenship record during the duration **as a scholarship recipient**.
- **Minimum GPA 3.0. A minimum grade point average** must be sustained during the duration as a scholarship recipient. Grade point averages, academic performance and citizenship performance will be shared with Mr. and Mrs. Mills on a quarterly basis.
- Students from underserved populations (BIPOC) are strongly encouraged to apply. Each year, at least one-half of the scholarships will be awarded to students of color.
- Mr. and Mrs. Mills intend to invest the time in knowing his scholarship recipients and may meet with recipients minimally one time per year in person or virtually.

Selection

Student Applications are available online from the Enrollment Management section of the Montverde Academy website. Prospective applicants will be required to submit the following with the application:

1. Submit prior academic transcripts (upper school candidates)
2. Submit two completed recommendation forms to Mr. Bell, Director of Arts
3. Submit the required 500-word "What this Opportunity Means to my Future" essay
4. Successfully complete the Theatre Conservatory Audition Process

Parents will be required to complete the FAST application for financial assistance located on the Enrollment Management section of the Montverde Academy website and submit prior year tax returns and current W2s.

Scholarship recipients will be announced on a rolling basis as applications are received and reviewed until funds are depleted. Mr. and Mrs. Mills will contribute to all scholarship decisions.

Award

Scholarships will be awarded concurrent with the families' chosen payment plan and will continue for one academic year. Thank you letters from the award recipient will be submitted to Miss Vanessa Mills and Miss Maya Mills, sisters of Daniel Mills. Applicants will be required to apply annually for scholarship funds. Concurrent with financial aid policies, students who fail to maintain scholarship standards may have their scholarship suspended or withdrawn during the course of the year. Funding is awarded annually until the resources are depleted.

Questions

Questions regarding the W. Daniel Mills Theatre Conservatory Scholarship Fund may be directed to the Director of Arts, Mr. Dean Bell at dean.bell@montverde.org and Dr. David Rath, Associate Head of School/Dean of Enrollment Management at david.rath@montverde.org.

