



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hancock Whitney Partners with Crescent City OLQ for Pearl of Justice Scholarship

Award honors Coretta Scott King's social justice, civil rights commitment

NEW ORLEANS (June 14, 2022)—Hancock Whitney has partnered with the Crescent City OLQ Charitable Organization (CCOLQ) to establish the new Pearl of Justice Scholarship honoring Coretta Scott King, wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and her lifelong commitment to social justice and civil rights.

The Pearl of Justice Scholarship provides \$1,000 each for three undergraduate academic years. If the recipient receives admission to graduate school, the scholarship includes an additional \$1,000 award.

Eligible applicants for the scholarship are female graduates of Greater New Orleans area high schools who are rising sophomores at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), maintain a college GPA of at least 2.5, have low to moderate income, and demonstrate commitment to social justice principles through servant leadership advancing equity, access, civic participation, and human rights in their communities.

Applicants may submit online applications by the **July 15, 2022**, deadline at <https://www.crescentcityolqfoundation.org/scholarships>.

Hancock Whitney Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Tamara J. Wyre, CIMA®, said, “It’s important to recognize the actions of today’s young women who keep the legacy and spirit of change alive. At Hancock Whitney, we understand that change brings opportunity. This scholarship aligns beautifully with our commitment to service and to providing resources and expertise that help ensure all communities continue to grow and thrive.”

Hancock Whitney will also collaborate with CCOLQ to engage high school and college students with other upcoming projects, including a fall 2022 HBCU college fair, mentoring, and college preparatory programming.

“Crescent City OLQ is honored to forge a partnership with Hancock Whitney to honor Coretta Scott King’s legacy and passion for social justice. The scholarship will provide a young female student the opportunity to advance their education as the student forges their own path to service. This scholarship is in line with the founding principles of our organization, an all-volunteer nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to improving the education and economic conditions of individuals and families in greater New Orleans,” said CCOLQ Chairperson Marvel M. Robertson.

CCOLQ and Hancock Whitney will announce Pearl of Justice scholarship winners in conjunction with the bank’s commemoration of Women’s Equality Day on August 26, 2022. Established in 1973, Women’s Equality Day celebrates the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibited denying the right to vote based on gender.

Tribute to a Legacy

The right to vote, a cornerstone of democracy, now belongs to all citizens—but that wasn't always the case. As early as 1848, women began campaigning for a universal suffrage amendment to the Constitution. Finally, after more than seven decades, Congress ratified, the 19th Amendment in 1920, ensuring women the right to vote and have their voices heard to help generate change and progress.

Coretta Scott King embodied the spirit of the women who were so integral in organizing the fight to register voters. The Heiberger, Alabama, native was valedictorian of her high school class and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Antioch College in Ohio and a B.A. in music education from Boston's New England Conservatory of Music.

She began her activism for social change and peace before marrying Dr. King in 1953. After his assassination in 1968, Mrs. King founded what became the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change, serving as the center's president and chief executive officer.

Mrs. King continued to champion global peace and racial and social justice until her death in 2006 at age 78. The Pearl of Justice Scholarship pays tribute to her life's achievements in influencing social justice nationally and globally.

About Crescent City OLQ

CCOLQ is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana and organized exclusively for charitable and education purposes. The organization's mission is to promote the general purpose and programs of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., provide programming to improve the lives of individuals and families in the Greater New Orleans community, provide financial support to students at HBCUs, and support the Educational Advancement Foundation, Inc. For more information, visit <https://www.crescentcityolqfoundation.org/>.

About Hancock Whitney

Since the late 1800s, Hancock Whitney has embodied core values of Honor & Integrity, Strength & Stability, and Commitment to Service, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility. Hancock Whitney offices and financial centers in Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas offer comprehensive financial products and services, including traditional and online banking; commercial and small business banking; private banking; trust and investment services; healthcare banking; certain insurance services; and mortgage services. The company also operates a loan production office in Nashville, Tennessee. BauerFinancial, Inc., the nation's leading independent bank rating and analysis firm, consistently recommends Hancock Whitney as one of America's most financially sound banks. More information is available at www.hancockwhitney.com.