



# Bennie J. Swans Jr. Scholarship for Leadership Grand Strand

The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Educational Foundation, in conjunction with the chamber's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council, offers an annual scholarship to Leadership Grand Strand (LGS) to provide full-tuition for one person from an underrepresented or marginalized group. A selection committee of the chamber's DEI Council will award this scholarship. *Completing this scholarship application does not guarantee tuition assistance.*

**Application** - All applications must be typed via this PDF form; handwritten applications will not be accepted.

## Submit

Scholarship applications must be submitted with the LGS program application and reference letters by:

- Email to [LGS@VisitMyrtleBeach.com](mailto:LGS@VisitMyrtleBeach.com) (If emailing, the file name must include your full name. Ex: Your-Name-BennieSwansScholarship); or
- Mail to Diana D. Greene, Leadership Grand Strand, PO Box 2115, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578; or

**Deadline for submission is June 30, 2024**

## About MBACC's DEI Council

The mission of the MBACC Diversity Equity & Inclusion Council is to promote growth and enhance community awareness about the value and advantages of creating and sustaining diverse and inclusive businesses and workplace environments. Diversity is defined as any respect in which people or groups may differ, including race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, national origin, age, ability status and veteran status. Our goals are to encourage entrepreneurship, support the growth and development of businesses owned by individuals from underrepresented and marginalized groups, cultivate diversity leadership by providing resources and services for our diverse business community and help the community recognize the importance of all consumers.

Read the chamber's full DEI statement online at [MyrtlebeachAreaChamber.com/diversity-equity-inclusion](https://MyrtlebeachAreaChamber.com/diversity-equity-inclusion)

## About Bennie J. Swans Jr.

Bennie J. Swans Jr. was a longtime community and civil rights activist and a former chair of the Horry County Democratic Party that passed away in September 2020. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and a recipient of the Purple Heart for his service. Bennie was a driving force in the formation of the annual Martin Luther King Freedom Rally events and parade in Myrtle Beach each year. This was his way of uniting people across the county because of his belief in embracing diversity equity and inclusion. Bennie led with his heart, and you could often hear him say "Do Something" to make our community a better place.

The following criteria will be evaluated by the selection committee:

- The essay will be evaluated on the applicant's relationships, impact & background towards an underrepresented or marginalized group.
- The applicant's commitment, involvement, and desire to improve the community.
- Quality of application: leadership question responses, letters of recommendation, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Name

Email

Phone

Please list the demographic(s) you represent

In no more than 500 words, explain how this scholarship will assist you in reaching your professional goals.