



Dr. Elvin Holt Scholarship for Texas State University Students

This secondary education scholarship is offered in honor of Dr. Elvin Holt, Professor Emeritus of English at Texas State University. A founding board member of the Calaboose African American History Museum, Dr. Holt served as its president for eleven years following the passing of museum founder, Mrs. Johnnie Armstead. During his tenure he assumed almost every role—archivist, secretary, treasurer, and community representative. He was an integral part of the life of the organization for nearly three decades until his passing in 2023.

Dr. Holt, a native Texan, earned a B.A. in English from Prairie View A & M, magna cum laude. He taught high school English while pursuing an M.A. in English from Southwest Texas State University. After earning his M.A., he accepted a position at Angelo State University in San Angelo where he taught five English courses each semester. After two years at Angelo State, he joined the faculty at the University of New Orleans where he taught four literature and writing courses each semester.

After four years at UNO, Elvin Holt enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, where he studied 19th and 20th century American literature and African American literature under Professor Robert Hemenway, author of the first biography of Zora Neale Hurston. Dr. Hemenway directed Holt's dissertation which explored politics and race in Hurston's writings. After graduating from UK in 1983, Dr. Holt joined the faculty at Southwest Texas State University, where he became the first tenured Black professor in the English Department. He taught courses in American literature, African American literature, African literature, and composition. He developed graduate courses focusing on William Faulkner, Richard Wright, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Gwendolyn Brooks, Jessie Redmon Fauset, Flannery O'Connor, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, and Colson Whitehead. Dr. Holt retired in August 2020, but remained active in the San Marcos community, sharing his experience and wisdom with others.

Dr. Holt published essays and reviews in *Studies in American Humor*, *The Zora Neale Hurston Forum*, *Twentieth Century and Contemporary Literature*, *Writing African American Women*, *African American National Biography*, and *Encyclopedia of African American Folklore*. He was co-author, with Sandra Mayo, of *Stages of Struggle and Celebration: A production History of Black Theatre in Texas (2016)* and co-editor, with Sandra Mayo, of *Acting Up and Getting Down: Plays by African American Texans (2014)*. He presented papers at the Conference of the American Folklore Society, the Faulkner and Hurston Conference, the Conference of the National Association of African American Studies, Conference of the Texas Historical Association, the South-Central Modern Language Association, and the National Council of Teachers of English, among others. In 2009, he received the Dean's Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Holt devoted as much time as possible to community service. He was the Calaboose's Resident Archivist and, for more than 20 years, served as recording secretary for the Pride of San Marcos Lodge No. 494. He was frequently asked to present talks on local black history for the San Marcos Public Library.



AWARD AMOUNT - Three scholarships will be awarded at \$1,000 each.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must currently be enrolled at Texas State University.
- Must have a 2.5 GPA *or higher* on a 4.0 scale.
- Priority will be given to students who are African American Studies minors.

REQUIREMENTS

- **Current Transcript.** There is no fee to download an Unofficial Transcript from the Office of the University Registrar. Visit <https://www.registrar.txst.edu/> and click “Order a Transcript” for instructions.
- **Essay.** Write and attach an essay (minimum 500 words) that addresses your eligibility for this scholarship AND describes the following:
 1. The most influential educator in your life and why.
 2. Your biggest motivation for completing a degree at Texas State University.
 3. Your involvement in the communities of Texas State University and San Marcos through service and volunteerism.
- **List of References.** Submit the Name, Official Title, and Contact Information (e-mail address and phone number) for two references who can speak about your commitments to academics and community life.
- **Submission Form.** Complete the submission form and combine it with the materials above into a *single* PDF file labeled “Holt Scholarship_Last NameFirst Name.” Example: “Holt Scholarship_SmithJessie.” E-mail the PDF to info@calaboosemuseum.org.

SELECTION

- Application **deadline is May 10, 2024 at 11:59 PM.**
- Recipients will be selected by the Calaboose African American History Museum Scholarship Committee and announced on June 19, 2024. Award will be paid to the recipient upon receipt of an Enrollment Verification letter for the Fall 2024 term from Texas State University. Visit <https://www.registrar.txst.edu/> and click “Enrollment Verifications” for instructions.

For questions, contact info@calaboosemuseum.org or call 512-393-8421 and leave a message.



**Dr. Elvin Holt Scholarship for Texas State University Students
Submission Form**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Address:

City/State:

Zip:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Major Field of Study:

Anticipated Year of College Graduation at TXST:

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- I have attached a copy of my current transcript from the Office of the University Registrar (see p. 2 for instructions). The transcript confirms that I am currently enrolled at Texas State and have a 2.5 GPA *or higher* on a 4.0 scale.
- I have written and attached an essay no less than 500 words, that addresses my eligibility for this scholarship and describes the following:
 1. The most influential educator in my life and why.
 2. My biggest motivation for completing a degree at Texas State University.
 3. My involvement in the communities of Texas State University and San Marcos through service and volunteerism.
- I have attached a list of two references who can speak about my commitments to academics and community life. The list includes their Name, Official Title, and Contact Information (e-mail address and phone number).

Combine this form with the checklist materials listed into a *single* PDF file labeled "Holt Scholarship_Last NameFirst Name." Example: "Holt Scholarship_SmithJessie."

E-mail the PDF to info@calaboosmuseum.org