The COLVIN PROJECT

On March 2, 1955, Claudette Colvin, a dark-skinned, disadvantaged 15-year-old, refused to give her seat to a white passenger on a city bus in Montgomery. Courts found her guilty of assault and battery, disorderly conduct and violating a city ordinance. Claudette Colvin’s act of civil disobedience happened nine months before Rosa Parks did the same, but most of us don’t know that. Leaders of the time rendered Claudette Colvin invisible and obscured her courageous act from history because complexion, her age, her lack of social status and pregnancy. The Colvin Project focuses on often overlooked high school girls in rural communities in the southeast. Through an intensive summer enrichment institute and tailored programs, The Colvin Project aims to create a space of love and support in which rural black girls can fellowship, learn and blossom. Our goal is to help them understand we see them and value their contributions and to know they are beautiful and worthy of being acknowledged and heard.

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION:

- Currently enrolled student at a public Mississippi high school
- No minimum GPA
- Girls with the potential to be overlooked, due to low or failing grades, disciplinary challenges, attendance issues
- Strong leadership potential

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION:

- Willingness to learn
- Commitment to complete summer institute, as well as follow-up activities throughout the program year
- Creation of personal goal statement
- Application (to be completed by school representative and student)

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- Personal advancement
- Assistance with college entrance
- Internship opportunities

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