



# The Reese|Brooks |Gilbert Collegiate Leadership Development Application

## The Mission

The Evans Project, where the Reese|Brooks|Gilbert Initiative is housed, is a program of The Lighthouse | Black Girl Projects. Our mission is to be a revelatory, unflickering light for Black girls and young women in the southeastern United States through focused programming and by creating safe spaces for them.

## Program Purpose

The Evans Project focuses on honing the leadership skills of young women leaders enrolled in bachelor's degree programs at four-year colleges and universities located in six southeastern states. The Reese|Gilbert|Brooks Initiative, specifically, is a two-year leadership program that targets young women who are often overlooked, for any number of reasons, for chances to lead on campus. During their tenure in the program, students have the opportunity to participate in experiential and enhanced learning opportunities, develop relationships with mentors, and build a network of peers to support their long-term personal, academic and future professional growth.

Young women who are full-time students and have enough credit hours (30-60 hours) to be classified as sophomores and juniors at four year colleges and universities in the southeast, by the end of spring 2020, are eligible to apply for this opportunity. There is no minimum GPA requirement. Social science, education, women's studies, or business (with interest in organizational psychology) majors are especially encouraged to apply, although all majors are welcomed. Finally, applicants should also be committed to Black girls and women and have an interest in reproductive justice, Black liberation, womanism, feminism, community organizing and/or advocacy.

## Fellowship Overview

Introduction to the Reese|Gilbert|Brooks Initiative year requires mandatory participation in a 10-day in-person gathering in July. All travel and accommodations will be handled by The Lighthouse. Your participation in a 3-day in-person gathering between fall and spring semesters is also required. The summer session serves as the program year kick-off. We embark on a cultural learning tour that gives young women opportunities 1) for experiential learning; 2) to build a support network with peers; 3) to consider the lives of Black women in communities and cities different from their own. While traveling across the southeast, young women have an opportunity to actively engage, interrogate and analyze the history and future in cities and towns of significance, like Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Selma, Alabama; Atlanta, Georgia; and beyond.

The winter gathering, likewise, is a time to check in, reconnect with peers and regroup in self-reflection, work, scholarship of Black feminism, and sisterhood.

Through workshops during the in-persons, and other interactive leadership development activities, participants will focus on sharpening self-awareness, autonomy and negotiation skills, among other things. During retreats, participants meet and engage with Black women who are professionals in their respective fields who serve as mentors throughout the fellowship year.

## Online Learning Gatherings

- To continue support one another in their personal growth;
- To continue to be challenged in their leadership development skills by workshop presenters;
- And discuss ways they, in turn, can apply learned skills to advocacy efforts on their campuses.

## Selection Process

After interested parties have submitted completed applications, *including* two (2) letters of reference, at least two fellows from each college or university with whom The Lighthouse | Black Girl Projects has a relationship will be chosen from the applicant pool to participate in the Reese|Brooks|Gilbert Initiative. Participants will be notified via email upon the finalization of the cohort class.

## Retreat Dates

Our first in-person gathering, the cultural learning tour, will be held July 20-28, 2020; dates for the winter in-person gathering have yet to be determined and will be announced in fall 2020.

## Location of Learning Tour

More information about the learning tour will be given to those selected to participate in the leadership cohort in late spring.

## Expenses

None of the \$10,000 per-person expenses for this opportunity will be incurred by participants. All expenses required to participate are covered by The Lighthouse | Black Girl Projects, which includes the cost of travel, hotel, meals, scholarship, stipends and any other expenses that may arise.

## Deadline and Returning Applications

Complete this application and submit letters of reference by **11:59 pm EST Wednesday, April 1, 2020**. Your application materials may be scanned and emailed to [info@loveblackgirls.org](mailto:info@loveblackgirls.org), or physically mailed to PO Box 607 Jackson, MS 39206 by the above deadline.

## The Application

### About You

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Best Number to Reach You \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter Handles (*don't worry, we're only looking to expand our networks*)

### School Life

University/College? \_\_\_\_\_ Classification? \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

On-Campus Advisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address

Phone Number

Is your supervisor/executive director/advisor in support of your application to this leadership program? **Yes No N/A**

### Community Engagement

List community service and volunteer projects in which you are currently or have been involved (e.g., school-related, church-sponsored, independent outreach and activities in the community), including host organizations and dates.

Engagement/Activity/Project	Dates

What programs, teams, internships and/or jobs will you be participating in May 2020- August 2020?

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## Statements of Support

Please list two people who support you in your leadership development—one on-campus personnel (this person does not, necessarily, need to be your academic advisor but should be the person you listed on page 2 of the application), the other can be from any other community of which you are a part. Have those individuals write letters of reference that you will include, separately, with this application packet. Please have them consider these two things in their letters: 1) an instance of your greatest display of leadership ability and 2) an opportunity for leadership growth.

Reference 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the reference? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the reference? \_\_\_\_\_