HONORING THE LEGACY.

2022 BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST IN HONOR OF GARTH C. REEVES, SR.

CONTEST RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Submissions Due Sunday, February 13, by 11:59 p.m. (ET)

Laptops donated by Your Local, Independent Coca-Cola Bottler
Breakthrough Miami is pleased to announce the 2022 Black History Month Essay Contest in Honor of Garth C. Reeves, Sr. This year’s theme is “When Black Women Lead, We All Win.”

Breakthrough Miami Scholars in grades 5 through 12 are invited to participate. More information about the contest may be found below. **Entries must be received by Sunday, February 13, by 11:59 p.m. (ET)**

“When Black Women Lead, We All Win.”

“In the fight for civil rights in America, Black women have steadily led the way for centuries. Black women led the Underground Railroad, were the unsung leaders of the suffrage movement, organized freedom riders, paved the way for constitutional protections against sexual discrimination and remain the most consistent voting block in the United States to stand up for the rights of marginalized people.” *(Forbes Magazine, August 2020)*

Throughout Florida history, there are examples of Black Women whose leadership led to progress in Florida and improved the lives of its people. Many of these women call Florida home and have demonstrated time and time again that Black women can lead and improve the lives of others.

- **Esther Rolle**, an American actress, graced the silver screen throughout the seventies in her role as Florida Evans in the CBS television sitcom *Good Times*. Rolle fought hard for the addition of her husband on the show, James Evans, and for more relevant scripts reflecting the Black family. Shew was a resident of Pompano Beach, Florida.

- **Carrie Meek** was a political trailblazer in Florida, serving in both the Florida House and Senate before being elected to the United States Congress in 1993. During her ten-year tenure in Congress, she advocated on behalf of poor and marginalized communities. She lived in Miami, Florida.

- **Felecia Hatcher**: Felecia Hatcher is on a mission to rid communities across the globe of innovation deserts by working with leaders and government officials to create an inclusive and diverse tech/startup community. As a result of her work, Miami has become one of the most authentically diverse startup cities in the country, helping minority led startup founders access opportunities and capital. She lives in Miami, Florida.

- **Zora Neale Hurston**: Zora Hurston was a world-renowned writer and anthropologist. Hurston’s novels, short stories, and plays often depicted African American life in the South. Her work in anthropology examined Black folklore. Hurston influenced many writers, forever cementing her place in history as one of the foremost female writers of the 20th century. She lived in Fort Pierce, Florida.

**ESSAY PROMPT:** Identify a Black woman who has led civically or in industry to inspire positive change in Florida. How does the community benefit from the leadership of Black Women? What have you learned from the leadership of Black Women?
JUDGING CRITERIA:
Essays will be reviewed anonymously by a select panel of judges from the Breakthrough Village, based on the following criteria:

- Focus and Details
- Organization
- Voice
- Word Choice
- Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, and Spelling
- Adherence to specific limitations (No more than 1000 words written based on essay theme, subject must reside in Florida)

ELIGIBILITY: Breakthrough Miami Scholars grades 5 through 12 grade are eligible to submit one essay, written in English, no longer than 1,000 words, that’s an original and unpublished work.

ENTRY DATES: Scholar essays must be emailed to Breakthrough Miami at essaycontest@breakthroughmiami.org, Subject Line “Black History Month Essay Contest.”

All entries must be received by 11:59 PM (ET) on Sunday, February 13, 2022

LABELING REQUIREMENTS:
- Scholar’s First and Last Name
- Current School
- Grade Level
- Breakthrough Program Site
- Subject (The Person Your Essay Is About)
- Title Of The Essay

PRIZES: Advancing our shared commitment to our community, Coke Florida is generously donating new laptops to be awarded to first prize winners in each category (elementary, middle, high school). Additionally, the first place winner in each category (elementary, middle, and high school) will receive a $100 gift card. The first, second, and third place entries in the elementary, middle, and high school category will be awarded and publicly recognized via social media and email campaigns.

About Garth C. Reeves, Sr.
The Miami Times was the only job publisher emeritus Garth C. Reeves Sr. ever had, aside from serving in the Army during World War II. He was proud of that distinction. Reeves’ energy in running the landmark, black-owned paper would impact the lives of countless families in South Florida. He’d found his life’s calling — to serve as a voice for the black community. He knew no better job.

Reeves, who oversaw the black-owned paper his father initially printed one page at a time on a small hand press in a modest Miami home upon its founding in 1923, and who kept it in the family as it evolved into its digital edition today, died two months after his daughter, Rachel, passed. She was the publisher of The Miami Times, assuming the mantle of leadership from her father and grandfather. (Miami Herald, November 2019)