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LOCAL NONPROFIT SPONSORS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR DISABLED YOUTH

Beltsville, Md. (August 18, 2015) – [Project ASCEND](http://www.project-ascend.org), a college scholarship program and youth civic engagement nonprofit, announces its sponsorship of the *2016 Project ASCEND Scholars Program*. This scholarship initiative will provide five \$1,000 college scholarships to disabled students living in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Students can apply by downloading the application on www.project-ascend.org and submitting required materials by October 1st. The program will accept applications from students with a physical or mental disability attending community college or a university in the 2015-2016 academic year. Recipients will also participate in a lobby day sponsored by Project ASCEND to support further investments in higher education for students with disabilities.

This program was made possible by the [Advocates in Disability Award \(ADA\) program](#), funded by [The HSC Foundation](#) and the [Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation](#). The ADA program awards and encourages a young adult with a disability between the ages of 14 and 26 who is positively affecting the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. The program also supports an innovative project developed by this young person that serves and empowers individuals with disabilities.

Project ASCEND Founder and Director, Ola Ojewumi, is the [2015 recipient of the Advocates in Disability Award](#), which provides grant funding for the *2016 Project ASCEND Scholars Program*.

“This initiative will serve as a two-tiered program to provide financial assistance to disabled college students and initiate lobbying efforts to improve the public education system for students with disabilities,” said Ola Ojewumi, 24, Project ASCEND founder and director. “The hope is that these scholarships will encourage young people with disabilities to advocate for themselves, particularly on the importance of equal access to quality education.”

Diagnosed with mitochondrial disease and the recipient of both a heart and kidney transplant, Ola’s advocacy through Project ASCEND is reflective of her dedication to advancing the lives of young people with disabilities. To learn more about Project ASCEND, visit www.project-ascend.org.

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***Project ASCEND** is a college scholarship program and youth civic engagement nonprofit organization. Founded in 2011, its mission is to create higher education opportunities for youth living in Washington, D.C. Accomplishments to date include public service partnerships that provide college scholarships, the creation of a teen camp reaching 100 low-income girls, collecting 200 books for women’s education programs in Africa, and mentoring more than 500 youth.*