# **THE HIPP “PAY IT FORWARD” AWARD**

The Hipp Award, given in memory of Robert Aurelius Hipp of the Form of 1969, is awarded to the exceptional student, alum, or person nominated by a member of the SPS community who, by Hipp's spirit of humility, kindness, and decency, strives to improve their home community, SPS community, or the greater world.

Robert Aurelius Hipp was among the first Black students to enter SPS. He was a phenomenal athlete, playing at the varsity level in baseball and basketball, running cross country, and playing club football with the undefeated Delphians. He was quiet yet strong but was never given the notice he so richly deserved, earning him the nickname "Invisible." He was the kind of person whose strong, humble presence gave others the steadfast foundation and comfort to shine. He was exceptionally kind, and always maintained a sense of humility. He tragically died at the young age of 26 from a brain tumor.

We hope to cement his legacy and bring his strengths into the light by awarding up to **$10,000** to the person looking to helm a project to make their community better. Additionally, to model the School's mission of "service to the greater good," **any SPS teacher, student, staff member, or alum may nominate any worthy person in their own communities** for the Hipp Award.

**Application Deadline: February 1st, 2021, at 5:00 pm EST**

**Information and Guidelines:**

**Eligibility:**

Any member of the SPS community (student, alum, faculty member, or staff member) or person that any member of the SPS nominates may apply for the Hipp Award.

The Hipp Award is merit-based and does not discriminate against its applicants on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, age, national origin, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

**Application Process Timeline:**

* **Monday, January 4th, 2021:** Application opens
* **February 1st, 2021: Deadline:** Application and all supporting materials must be submitted via email to sps2020society@gmail.com by 5:00 pm EST.
* **By March 1st, 2021:** Winners announced. All applicants will be notified via email of their application status.

**Summary of Selection Criteria and Materials Required for Submission:**

* **Deadline:** Applications and all supporting materials must be submitted by 5:00 pm EST on February 1st, 2021.
* **Contact Information:** see the section titled “Applicant Contact Information” for more information.
* **Letters of Recommendation:** Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation, each sent separately, to sps2020society@gmail.com. The letters do not have to be from SPS teachers or administration; please refer to the section titled “Letters of Recommendation” for more information.
* **Essays:** see the section titled “Essay Questions” for more information.
* **Acknowledgment of selection criteria and application requirements:** By submitting an application for the Hipp Award, applicants acknowledge, understand, and agree to the selection criteria and application requirements published on the award’s website. Furthermore, the selected individual or group agrees to cooperate with publicizing the Hipp Award Award and the 2020 Society of SPS on social media and other PR initiatives.

**Supplementary Materials/Additional Information (OPTIONAL)**

If you wish to share any additional information not included in the application, please use the space below. Additionally, please provide any links or documents for up to **three** supplemental materials (i.e., newspaper articles, past projects) that you believe would help the selection committee better understand your application. For videos, please provide links (Youtube, Vimeo, etc) rather than files.

**Applicant Contact Information (for groups, fill out contact information for each group member)**

* Name:
* Pronouns:
* Date of Birth:
* Hometown/place of permanent residence:
* Email:
* Phone number:
* Relationship to St. Paul’s School:

**Letters of Recommendation:**

**Guidelines:**

Applicants are required to submit two letters of recommendation that abide by the following guidelines. Members of the applicant’s family may not write letters of recommendation. If you are nominating someone, you will write one of the letters of recommendation and the nominee will be required to attain the second.

* Applicants must provide contact information of reference: see the section titled “Reference Contact Information” for the form.
* One of the letters should be from the person who nominated you if you are not a “member” of the SPS community
* Letters must speak to the applicant’s character and commitment to social good.

**Additionally, it is the applicant’s responsibility to:**

* Share the letter-writing guidelines above with references
* Obtain a copy of the reference letter and send it to sps2020society@gmail.com or ensure the letter-writer sends it themselves by the application deadline.

**Reference Contact Information:**

Reference 1:

* Name:
* Pronouns:
* Organization/School:
* Title/Position:
* Relationship to applicant:
* Email Address:
* Preferred phone number:

Reference 2:

* Name:
* Pronouns:
* Organization/School:
* Title/Position:
* Relationship to applicant:
* Email Address:
* Preferred phone number:

**Essay Questions:**

1. Please describe what project you plan to create or support with this grant. What is the objective behind your project and what motivated your interest in this cause? How does your project seek to improve your community? (up to 650 words)
2. If you are selected as the winner, you can receive up to $10,000 Please explain in detail how you plan to spend this money. An expected breakdown of potential costs and expenditures and a timeline of when you plan to start and finish your project is necessary for us to fully consider your proposal.

**We are incredibly excited to read your application and commend your commitment to making positive, meaningful change. If you have any questions or need help, reach out to** **sps2020society@gmail.com****.**