

*Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.  
Delta Omicron Zeta Chapter  
Boston, Massachusetts*



*Scholarship*

*Sisterhood*

*Service*

*Finer Womanhood*

*The Barbara J. Dawson Book Award  
2020 Application*

*“Leading and Changing Lives with Service as the Focal Point”*

**Andrea Puckerine-Braxton  
President**

## **Background**

### **Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated:**

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. is a non-profit, community conscious, action-oriented organization. Since its inception at Howard University on January 16, 1920, the women of this great sorority have been determined to exemplify and promote the sorority's ideals of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood and Finer Womanhood. Today over 100,000 members around the world continue the legacy of our five founders.

### **Delta Omicron Zeta Graduate Chapter:**

Four hard-working women of Zeta chartered Delta Omicron Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in the 1940's. Through various projects focusing on Cultural Awareness, Health, Education, among others, we have continued to set ourselves apart from other organizations. We continue to raise awareness of the health disparities in our community by offering programs geared toward the African American Community. Topics have included: Premature Births Awareness, Domestic Violence, Cancer, Bullying, and Senior Citizen's concerns to name a few.

Delta Omicron Zeta Chapter sponsors an undergraduate chapter, Theta Alpha, which is a metropolitan Boston chapter chartered in 1933. Members of Delta Omicron Zeta Graduate Chapter of Boston, Massachusetts continue to strive for excellence, compassion and commitment in our efforts to serve the community.

## Biography

Barbara J. Dawson is an advocate for doing what is right and in the best interest of all mankind. Mrs. Dawson was involved in a car accident, shattering the lenses of her eyeglasses, which were made of real glass, and sending needlelike slivers of glass into both eyes, leaving her blinded.

After regaining her strength and learning to live in a world without sight, Mrs. Dawson set her course to establish legislation, in Massachusetts and on a Federal level, that would require the use of tough shatter-resistant material versus glass in the lenses of all eyeglasses. She spoke before legislators on Beacon Hill and wrote several articles on the topic. She fought in writing and in person until 1970 when the bill passed. She stood beside Governor Francis Sargent when he signed the momentous bill into State Law. Mrs. Dawson was then invited to the White House in July of 1970 and where she again shared her story. On December 31, 1971 a federal law was passed that all glasses and sunglasses made, and sold in America, must be made of shatterproof, splinter-proof, laminated or heat-tempered glasses or plastic. Due to her tenacious efforts, in 1971, Mrs. Dawson was presented a citation from the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

Mrs. Dawson attended Boston Girls Latin School (now known as Boston Latin School) and later attended Boston University where she received her Associate and Bachelor's Degrees in Commercial Science, Master's in Public Relations, as well as a certificate in Advanced Graduate Studies in Administration and Supervision.

In giving back to her community, Mrs. Dawson's activities included volunteering at the Freedom House, Community Change Inc., Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary, Resthaven Nursing Home, Middlesex County Cooperative Extension Service, Greater Boston Committee for UNICEF, the Cambridge YWCA, National YWCA and many others! She sat on many executive boards and was President of Board of Directors for several of these organizations.

Mrs. Dawson has many awards and accolades for her work such as the Drylongso Award from Community Change Inc. of Boston in 1996, Boston Latin School honored her by naming her their outstanding Alumnae of 1998, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. recognized her in 1975 for her work in passing legislation for safety glasses as well as over 50 years of service in her Sorority. Mrs. Dawson is a life member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. and Delta Omicron Zeta Chapter. Therefore we honor her for her service and for exemplifying the principles on which our Sisterhood was founded.

## Book Award Description

**The Barbara J. Dawson Book Award is a one-time \$500 award.**

### **To be considered an applicant:**

- Must be a graduating high school senior who is a permanent resident of Boston, Massachusetts
- Must have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average
- Must submit a college/university Letter of Acceptance
- Must submit a complete application with all required components and documentation
- Must submit a letter verifying full-time status and enrollment of college/university no later than October 1, 2020 to Delta Omicron Zeta Chapter

### **Guidelines for Completing Application Packet:**

- **Submit two letters of recommendation (in two separate sealed envelopes) from:**
  - High School Teacher or Guidance Counselor
  - Community Leader or Church Official (who has observed and/or coordinated with the applicant on community service projects in which the applicant participated)
  - Employer
- **An OFFICIAL High School Transcript (in a sealed envelope)**
- **Personal Essay (no more than 250 words):**
  - This personal essay should consist of background information relative to your educational and professional goals. Please include why you feel that you should be chosen for this award and how can this award help you to achieve your academic aspirations.
- **Narrative Essay (no more than a total of 500 words):**

Please answer the following question(s) to the best of your ability:

  - What personal challenge/experience have you overcome?
  - How were you able to inspire change and bring hope to your community and others by overcoming this challenge or experience?
    - **All essays must be typed using Times Roman size 12 font.**
    - **All essays must correlate with specific question being answered.**
    - **Please check your spelling and use proper grammar.**

### **Book Award Application Submission**

- Application must be postmarked by **May 15, 2020**. Return all documentation in the following order: Completed application, transcripts and recommendations (each in sealed envelopes with recommender's name across the seal), personal essay, and narrative essay directly to:

**Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.  
Delta Omicron Zeta Chapter  
Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 191273  
Boston, MA 02119**



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List any honors/achievements/recognitions you have received:

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Leadership Skills:

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Community Activities: Please list community service projects in which you have participated in the past year. If necessary, please attach a separate sheet of paper to complete this section.

Name of Organization	Brief Description of Activity	Primary Responsibilities	Dates (month/year) From:      To:

**I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND COMPLETE. I understand that withholding information requested or giving false information may make me ineligible to receive The Barbara J. Dawson Book Award. If selected to receive The Barbara J. Dawson Book Award, I give Delta Omicron Zeta Chapter permission to release my name, institution, essay, and photograph for promotional purposes.**

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_