



## Ken Thaxter Leadership Award

The Ken Thaxter Leadership Award (KTLA) is so named after the Reverend Dr. Kenneth Thaxter who served Church Teachers' College (CTC) as principal and lecturer for more than thirty-one years. The Award has been established to recognize and support a third year CTC student who has demonstrated strong leadership skills during his /her first two years at the College, in anticipation that he /she will continue this behaviour for the rest of his /her college life and beyond. The value of the Award is Jamaican equivalent of USD250.00 for the 2014-2015 year, renewable to the current or other awardee each year.

"Ken T", as he was affectionately called, was one of the pioneer lecturers when CTC opened in 1965 as a teacher of English, Social Studies, History and Physical Education, becoming a senior lecturer in 1974 – 1978. After his appointment as Vice-Principal in 1978, he moved into the role of Principal in 1979, a position he held until 1996. His contributions to the College over the years include the composition of the College's song, This is our College, still sung today; and expansion of the secondary teachers' education programme. At the unveiling of the Kenneth Thaxter Building at CTC's inaugural Church Teachers' College Research Day held in March 2013 to highlight the importance of research to enhance learning, Mr. Thaxter said "I am honoured, a mixture of pride, in fact, that somebody thought it fit to name this building after me, but very humbled by the fact that it is an uplifting feeling that not just for me, but for others who do work of my kind, there is somebody that appreciate it, that feels that it should be recognised in this way." Known to many of his past students as Mr. Thaxter, who constantly warned them 'never confuse the beginning with the end', he expressed how pleased he was with the growth of the College.

The Ken Thaxter Leadership Award will be disbursed annually at the start of each academic year to a third year student who has demonstrated strong leadership skills during the first two years of attending the College. It will be monitored by the STAR Committee, established by the Church Teachers' College Alumni Association Inc. (CTCAAI) to manage all contributions received to support student welfare. All disbursements will therefore be handled by this Committee.

Applicants for the KTLA must fulfill the below criteria:

1. Be a third year student of Church Teachers' College, Mandeville, Jamaica.
2. Possess a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5.
3. Have demonstrated strong leadership qualities during the first two years of attendance at CTC.
4. Received the College Principal's nomination to be a recipient of the KTLA scholarship.

Scholarship recipients are required to maintain a 2.5 GPA while a benefitting from the Award and display his/her personal conduct at a level that befits the College's mission statement to "...develop positive attitudes, morals and values so as to be effective leaders in the communities they serve". Failure to meet these conditions will require the recipient to provide a written explanation surrounding the

circumstances and corrective actions to improve it. This should be submitted to the STAR Committee before the end of the first semester of that particular year.

The KTLA recipient will also be required to maintain an education career for at least one year after graduating from Church Teachers' College; become actively involved in a local chapter of CTCAAi; and become affiliated with a service organization that will support the growth and development of CTCAAi and, by extension, the College.

All applications for the KTLA must be submitted to the STAR Committee by the second Monday in July of the preceding academic year. Following the nomination from the College Principal, applications should include:

- a. An essay describing/explaining why the applicant's choice in Education and attending Church Teachers' College.
- b. Evidence of holding the required GPA as a student at the College.
- c. Commitment to teach in a classroom in Jamaica for at least one year after graduation, become part of the CTCAAi and join a local community service organization.

The Award is for one year only, granted to a third year student of the College.

Exception(s):

*Any prospective student, including relatives of alumni, may apply. A STAR Committee member with relative who has applied for the award may lobby on behalf of any applicant irrespective of relationship but must recuse him-/herself from the decision-making process.*

Source for information on the Revd. Dr. Thaxter: Dave Lindo, Gleaner contributor (March 8, 2013):  
<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20130308/news/news2.html>