Working his way through public instruction, Wilson C. Riles began his career in 1940 as a teacher and administrator in Arizona public schools and later became the first elected African American state superintendent of schools in the United States.

The scholarship program was established in 2003 to recognize Superintendent Riles’ deep commitment to education through support of students enrolled in California State University teacher credential programs, with preference given to first generation college students. **The scholarships rotate alphabetically among all campuses with teacher credentialing programs.**

Three (3) $2,000 scholarships will be awarded for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Recipients must be:
- Currently enrolled in the teacher credential program at:
  - California State University, Bakersfield
  - California State University Channel Islands
  - California State University, Chico
  - California State University, Dominguez Hills
  - California State University, East Bay
  - California State University, Fresno
  - California State University, Fullerton

- The minimum enrollment requirement is 6.0 units.
- The minimum grade point average is 3.0.

**To be considered for this scholarship you must:**
- Complete an online University Scholarship Application
- Personal Statement describing the students’ background, personal achievements, challenges they have encountered, educational pursuits and aspirations for the future

Recipients will submit:
- A Thank You Letter-Prior to fund distribution, selected recipients are required to send a thank you letter addressed to Mr. Philip G. Riles (son of Superintendent Riles)

**2020-2021 Applications will be available spring 2020**