

THE SCHOLARSHIP ACADEMY
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To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the more than 2500 students that The Scholarship Academy (TSA) works with, I strongly support the SunTrust Bank's planned merger with BB&T Bank. We are thrilled to be a partner with both banks via their philanthropic support in our efforts to increase the financial well-being of low-wealth and first-generation students in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

The Scholarship Academy is a 501c3 scholarship preparatory organization that utilizes a comprehensive that uses a series of curriculum-based activities to teach low-income, first generation students how to develop social entrepreneurship projects that leverage the chances for successfully navigating the financial aid maze. With the support of the SunTrust Foundation, we've been able to accomplish two of our organization's major goals - 1) the launch of a Virtual Scholarship Center tool that now hosts more than 10,000 Georgia students and connects them to local and state based scholarship opportunities, and 2) the sub-lease of a Scholarship Mobile that enables our organization to provide access to an interactive vehicle with 10 computer workstations for students in low-income communities.

In addition to financial support, representatives from both SunTrust and BB&T have volunteered for our Scholarship Boot Camp and Scholarship Fair sessions which impacted nearly 500 Atlanta metro youth. More specifically, SunTrust employees have repeatedly gone above and beyond in our partnership, connecting us to other like-minded organizations and partners so that we can truly multiply our impact in the community. These are the kind of businesses that need to be multiplied throughout our region.

As a nonprofit leader, I understand that the process of major bank mergers requires a strong negotiation of business service lines, but, given what we know about both business' ethical commitment to the greater Atlanta community, I know our students, and Atlanta citizens as a whole, will be better for it. I strongly support the merger of SunTrust Bank and BB&T, and I look forward to the collaborative projects from the new entity which will improve the lives of young people and serve as a model of effective practices for business/community partnerships.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Jessica Johnson
Executive Director, The Scholarship Academy, Inc.