



Press Release

223 Wings to Fly Scholars Top in 2019 KCSE Results

Nairobi, 30th December 2019... 24 *Wings to Fly* scholars managed to score a mean grade of A (plain) while 199 scored a mean of A- (minus) in the recently released KCSE examination results. Of the 2016 *Wings to Fly* cohort of 1,868 who were examined, 1,519 students managed to score a mean grade of C+ and above.

This year's performance saw the class achieve a university entry qualification rate of 81% against a national rate of 18%. Additionally, the results are an improvement from 2018 results where 15 scholars had scored straight As and 157 had A minuses.

Dr. James Mwangi, Equity Group's Managing Director and CEO applauded the students for their commitment and hard work. Commenting on the performance, Dr. Mwangi said, "As an organization, we are proud to be part of this journey. It is fulfilling and rewarding to witness the impact of the program on the lives of our scholars and the community at large. At *Wings to Fly*, we champion academic excellence, the development of a value-centered life, the nurturing of transformative leadership and embracing a culture of giving back."

Dr. Mwangi who also serves as the Executive Chairman at Equity Group Foundation also expressed gratitude to the teacher champions for their commitment to support the scholars in their academic work. He attributes the improved performance to the sustained, positive relationship between the scholars, teachers and Community Scholarship Selection Boards (CSSBs), whereby each student's performance is reviewed during school holidays.

For the past 10 years, the *Wings to Fly* program has supported 16,168 students to pursue secondary school education on full scholarships. The success of the program can be tied to the integrity and fidelity in the selection process which is done by the CSSBs that sit in all 47 counties ensuring that only the most deserving students gain scholarships.

The *Wings to Fly* program has also greatly benefited from the goodwill of the Kenyan public and Equity stakeholders who support the cause.

With a proven performance track record, *Wings to Fly* alumni have set high standards motivating those behind them to work towards excellence. So far, 11,928 scholars have sat their national exams with 9,581 managing to secure admission to university.

The *Wings to Fly* program is a partnership between Mastercard Foundation and Equity Group, with additional support from partners such as the German Government (through KfW), USAID, DFID, among others.

The 223 *Wings to Fly* 2019 finalists who scored A and A- are eligible to join the Bank for six to nine months under the Equity Bank Paid Internship Program. During this period, the scholars will secure valuable work ethics, skills where they will be mentored and earn a monthly stipend of Ksh 40,000 to assist them with meeting their basic needs and save for university education.

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Boiler Plate

Wings To Fly program is a comprehensive secondary school education and leadership program for top performing yet needy (orphan or vulnerable) students in Kenya. The Program is a partnership between Mastercard Foundation and Equity Group, with support of other partners including the German Government through KfW, USAID, DFID among others. It is coordinated by Equity Group Foundation. The objective of the scholarship program is to provide financial support and leadership empowerment tools to the scholarship beneficiaries. The total number of scholarships given under the Wings to Fly since 2010 currently stand at 16,168. Every year the scholars attend an Annual Education and Leadership Congress to activate and inspire leadership as well as inculcating a culture of giving back to society. They interact with mentors, professionals, thought leaders, influencers and captains of industry who encourage them to take up leadership roles in schools. On average, 86% of the scholars hold one or several leadership positions during their secondary school academic life. Further, the program records a 96% secondary school completion rate with 82% of the scholars attaining university admission qualifying grades.

Equity Group Foundation

Equity Group Foundation was established by Equity Bank to create the financial and operational infrastructure for its social programs aimed at the low-income population. This innovation and creative vehicle has fully transformed the concept of philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. While Equity Group Foundation champions the social economic transformation of the people of Africa and seeks partnership along seven cluster thematic areas, Equity Bank provides the infrastructure of delivery hence reducing the operational cost of the Foundation and increasing the rate of return on any social investment. The seven key social thematic areas are Education and Leadership development, Financial Literacy, Financial Inclusion, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, Health, and Environment.

Website Link -<https://equitygroupfoundation.com/>

Flicker Link - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/equitybank>

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