**Dr. James B. Ewers Jr. Fellowship Program
A’s & Aces Career Development Initiative**

The Dr. James B. Ewers Jr. Fellowship Program is an A’s & Aces Career Development Initiative developed to prepare exceptional participants of sophomore-senior high school status (ages 16-18) for the leadership and responsibility of being a tennis coach while training to improve their own tennis game. The goal is to provide participants with leadership opportunities, mentoring in tennis coaching, as well as the opportunity to practice and improve their own tennis game. Fellows are selected based on several criteria, including leadership potential, academic performance, tennis accomplishments, exceptional character, sportsmanship, and teamwork skills. High school sophomore-senior scholars (age 16 –18) are eligible to apply for this fellowship.

**Background:**

The Dr. James B. Ewers Jr. Fellowship Program is designed to provide youth with an opportunity to develop leadership and management skills, discover and build life skills, and improve their athletic and coaching capabilities. The Program is named after Dr. James B. Ewers Jr., a youth advocate, educator, coach, author, and social justice activist, who was inducted into the Black Tennis Hall of Fame in 2021. Dr. James B. Ewers, Jr. is a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and a product of the parochial and public schools there. He is an educator with over forty years of experience in working at the college and secondary school level. During this time, he has developed programs and activities for traditional and non-traditional students. He has also created partnerships with businesses that have resulted in the creation of jobs for many students.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

* 16 - 18 years of age when starting the program (high school sophomore-senior status)
* Minimum GPA: 3.0
* Participation in USTA tournaments (or high school competitions)
* Endorsement from A’s & Aces’ coaches
* If 18 years of age, must complete a background check and SafePlay training
* This program requires familiarity with the programming activities, and thus preference is given to former/current A’s & Aces participants

 **Fellowship Benefits:**

* Mentoring: The Fellows will be provided with regular mentoring from A’s & Aces Director of Tennis, Coach Alvin (AJ) Varnado, certified USPTA Elite Pro and High Performance Coach.
* Training with other players and coaching from Coach Varnado (and other coaches)
* Financial support with tournament expenses (i.e., USTA tournament entry fees): up to $500 in USTA tournament entry fee reimbursements per 6 months ($1,000 per year)
* Educational (completion) award at the end of service: this award ranges between $250-$1,000 depending on service status of the Fellow (1st year term vs. 2nd year term vs. 3rd year term), the length of the service (one semester vs. summer vs. one academic year) and the level of teaching commitment (number of service hours per week)
* A high school senior age of 18 is eligible to chose between the financial support described above (i.e., USTA entry fees and educational award) and a stipend. The stipend is considered a taxable income and is determined based on Fellow’s experience.
* Fellows are eligible to apply for USTA Foundation and STA NJTL college scholarships

**Fellows’ Responsibilities:**

* Fellow will attend an orientation prior to participation.
* Meeting and communicating with his/her supervisor on a regular basis as part of the mentorship aspect of the Fellowship.
* Participating in programming activities as determined in the Fellow’s contract (i.e., number of hours per week).
* Participating in the USTA National NJTL Essay Contest (unless age ineligible)
* Organizing and leading one community service activity per service term, within service hours (summer or semester).
* Organizing and running one special activity within service hours.
* Helping with maintaining the tennis courts space clean and safe for all participants.
* Maintaining a teamwork environment (e.g., engaging with staff, volunteers, and all participants)
* Writing a reflection essay at the end of the service term

**How to apply:**

* Read through the materials and decide if you are willing to accept the responsibilities and obligations of the Fellowship Program
* Complete the Fellowship application
* Explain in a cover letter (no more than one page) why you would like to be a Dr. Ewers Fellow
* Submit your resume along with other documents to outreach@asandaces.org.

Once the above process is completed and if you are accepted into the program, you will receive your Fellowship agreement that must be signed by you (and your parent if under age of 18), and then returned to A’s & Aces (outreach@asandaces.org).