

[April 13,2026]

Dear Essence,

I am eager to apply for the Essence Summer Internship Program for an editorial role at your company. As a graduating broadcast journalism student at Florida A & M University with over 40 published articles across platforms such as *Journey Magazine* and *TheNewsSchool*, I have developed the writing experience needed to thrive in a creative media environment like yours. Storytelling has always been deeper to me. Growing up in Chicago, I witnessed how many people struggle to express themselves in healthy, honest ways, and the consequences that follow. From my own personal experience, it can be used as a tool for healing, documenting truth, uplifting voices that often go unheard, and as an outlet to inspire and connect others through words.

At *Journey Magazine*, I created lifestyle features that blended culture and identity, learning to shape my voice to align with the publication's tone and style. At *The NEWSCHOOL*, I generated ideas rooted in culture, community, and news, and turned them into stories relevant to my peers in my city. I've also hosted my own podcast and worked in radio, which taught me how to stay ahead of trends and tell stories in multimedia formats. I also serve as the social media chair for Progressive Black Men Inc.'s national pages, where I help curate ideas and create posts to promote events and initiatives the organization seeks to highlight.

My academic and professional journey make me a great fit for your internship. I deeply align with the mission of your work, as I am passionate about amplifying voices within the black community and creating spaces where people feel seen and heard. The Essence Festival of Culture is an event that celebrates black identity, uplifts communities, and is, overall, a platform for meaningful storytelling. If I was ever so fortunate to be a part of this powerful project, I will provide engaging, culturally relevant ideas to your target audience through my personal experience and strengths as a creative writer.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would love to grow with you all and look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,

Willie Hurt