

TO: Regions 17 & 18 Chairs and RC members
Regions 17 & 18 Local Presidents

FROM: W.I.R.E. (WIRE) Scholarship Committee
DATE: February 6, 2017
RE: 2017-2018 Scholarship Information Sheet & Application
One or more Scholarships at \$500.00 each

Western Illinois Retired Educators (W.I.R.E.) has established a scholarship program for IEA-NEA members. All children, grandchildren, and legal wards of deceased, current IEA-NEA members, divorced, or IEA-Retired members are eligible to apply, regardless of age or marital status, as long as they plan to pursue a career in teaching. All current IEA-NEA certified teachers are eligible to apply for a scholarship as well.

The Committee is now accepting applications to make awards for the 2017-2018 school year. Feel free to photocopy applications as needed. Please read all instructions carefully. The WIRE scholarship committee, composed of the executive board, will be granting \$500.00 scholarships; one or more for high school seniors or college students pursuing a teaching degree, while the second scholarship(s) will be awarded to a current teacher(s) pursuing advancement in the field of education will be offered.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, ALL APPLICATIONS, COMPLETE WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, MUST BE POSTMARKED BY April 24, 2017.

If you wish to ensure that your application and the supporting documents have been received at the **Moline** IEA office by the designated date, we invite you to call or to send the application by certified mail. No faxes will be accepted.

Questions regarding this program may be sent to: W.I.R.E., Attention: Scholarship Committee, 1530- 46th Avenue Suite 1, Moline, IL 61265-7019. Please include your address and telephone for correspondence.

Status letters to all applicants will be mailed on or before **May 31, 2017**. The decision of the Scholarship Committee is final.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Enclosures: Information Sheet
Required Documentation
Application

INFORMATION SHEET

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Program is open to all students and current teachers who are pursuing a degree in the field of education.
2. The following criteria will be used to screen applicants.
 - A. Parent/guardian/grandparent is an IEA-NEA member. Children/grandchildren/wards or current IEA-NEA members of deceased, divorced, or IEA-Retired members in good standing may apply. (No agency fee-payer's child/ward may apply for this program.)
 - B. Students, in high school or college, enrolled in coursework that qualifies for certification in an education-related field in Illinois. High school students and individuals not currently enrolled in college who apply for this program must plan to pursue a career in the field of education. Current teachers must pursue advancement in the field of education.
 - C. Commitment to work in your education field in an Illinois public school for at least one year.
 - D. The application with all documentation must be postmarked by **April 24, 2017**.
3. The applicant is responsible for ensuring and completing that all documents are enclosed with the application.
4. The applicant is responsible for creating the essay. The essay must be typed.
5. The selection committee is responsible for choosing recipients based solely on the merits of the applicant and the information provided on the application.
6. The selection committee requires that the winner(s) write a progress report back to the committee after their first semester to inform the committee as how this scholarship has enhanced their pursuit of learning and advancement.
7. The selection committee is responsible for selecting top candidate(s) from IEA Regions 17 and 18. Equal importance will be given to applicants:
 - Academic achievement (transcripts)
 - Extra-curricular activities including work and family responsibilities
 - Typed 300-word essay. If longer than 300 words, your application will not be considered.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

TRANSCRIPTS

1. If you are a high school student, send your most recent official high school transcript which should also show your Grade Point Average. We recognize that final transcripts may not be available.
2. If you are a college student, send your most recent official college transcript (college freshman should send their current official high school transcript)

300-WORD (MAXIMUM) ESSAY: Why I wish to pursue a career in education or advancement in the field of education.

1. The essay must be a creation of the applicant.
2. The essay must be typed.
3. The applicant must sign the essay.

If any social security numbers appear on any documents, please mark through them thoroughly so that they are not legible.

The W.I.R.E. Scholarship Committee does not discriminate in awarding scholarships on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status, or other status protected by applicable federal, state or local law.

(cont'd.)

REFER TO YOUR ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS AND WRITE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON THAT DOCUMENT.

A. ACADEMIC INFORMATION (only for high school or college students)

In what month and year did you or will you graduate from high school? _____
month / year

My grade point average: _____ on a _____ scale. high school

My grade point average: _____ on a _____ scale. college (if applicable)

What year (class) are you presently in school? _____

**B. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/ CLUBS (number of years, offices held)
(High School/College if applicable)**

**C. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (public service projects, volunteering)
(High School/College if applicable and current teachers)**

W.I.R.E. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (cont'd)

To the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is true and correct.

_____/_____/_____
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE DATE

✓ **Reciprocal agreement must be signed if award is received. Agreement specifies payback provisions if recipient decides against going into public school teaching in Illinois.**

CHECK-OFF LIST:

- _____ Have you signed your application AND essay?
- _____ Have you enclosed all of the following?
- _____ **Essay**
- _____ **Transcript (high school or college if applicable)**

**MAIL APPLICATION AND DOCUMENTS
BY April 24, 2017, TO:**

**W.I.R.E. Scholarship Committee
1530- 46th Avenue Suite 1
Moline, Illinois 61265-7019**