The IBEW Founders’ Scholarship honors the dedicated wiremen and linemen who, on November 28, 1891, organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Each year the officers of the IBEW are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steward the electrical industry that our founders envisioned.

This award is for up to $200 per semester credit hour or $134 per trimester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate’s, bachelor’s, or postgraduate degree in a field that will further the electrical industry overall (as determined by the Founders’ Scholarship Administrator). The maximum distribution is $24,000 per person over a period not to exceed 8 years.

RULES FOR ENTRY

The Founders’ Scholarship competition is an adult program, to be used solely by IBEW members. It is NOT for the children of members.

1. Applicants must have been in continuous good standing and have paid dues without an honorary withdrawal for 4 years preceding May 1 of the scholarship year, or be charter members of a local union.

2. Each applicant must be recommended in writing by the local union business manager. If there is no business manager, then the recommendation must come from the local union president, system council chairman, or general chairman.

3. At least two additional letters of recommendation must be sent by individuals who are familiar with the applicant’s achievements and abilities.

4. Copies of all academic transcripts from high school, college, apprenticeship, or other educational and developmental programs must be submitted.

5. A complete résumé is required. The résumé should outline the applicant’s education and work history; military service; special honors or awards; and involvement in union, civic, community, or religious affairs.

6. Applicants are required to submit a 250-500 word essay (typed and double spaced). The title and topic must be: “How I Will Use My Founders’ Scholarship to Benefit the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Electrical Industry.”

7. Materials need not be sent at the same time but all must be postmarked or emailed prior to May 1 of the scholarship year.

Selection of Winners

Awards will be based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness, and career goals.

The independent Founders’ Scholarship Selection Committee will be composed of academic, professional, and community representatives. They will examine the complete record of each scholarship applicant to choose the winners. All applicants will be notified, and the scholarship winners will be featured in The Electrical Worker.

Responsibility of Each Founders’ Scholar

Scholarship winners must begin their studies in the term immediately following receipt of the award or in January of the following year. Each term’s earned grades must be sent to the Founders’ Scholarship Administrator together with a Founders’ Scholarship Progress Sheet. After the first calendar year in the program, and by each August 1 thereafter, the annual Founders’ Scholar paper is due. The paper must be at least 1,000 words on a labor-related topic, covering any aspect affecting the current labor movement or labor history. Scholarships are not transferable and are forfeited if the student withdraws or fails to meet the requirements for graduation from the school.

If a serious life situation arises to prevent continuation of studies, the scholarship winner may request that the scholarship be held in abeyance for a maximum of 1 academic year.

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