



Decorah Community School  
District Foundation

# Dollars for Scholars®

## **To the Members of the Class of 2020 and Parent(s)/Guardian(s):**

The Decorah Community School District Foundation invites you to apply for a Foundation Scholarship. Each year, the Foundation awards over \$100,000 to graduating DHS seniors planning on continuing post-high school education by attending either a trade school, technical program, community college, or a four-year college or university. All students are encouraged to apply for a scholarship.

## **The Scholarship Deadline is March 2, 2020.**

Planning ahead is very important for a successful scholarship application. You will write a Goals and Aspirations Essay, you will need references from teachers, and you may need information from your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application. You will need to allow time for your references and transcripts to be submitted. Plan on completing as much information as possible by the end of January.

## **Application Process**

The application process is entirely online. Scholarship applications are submitted through the Foundation website at [www.decorah.dollarsforscholars.org](http://www.decorah.dollarsforscholars.org)

A complete list of the available Foundation Scholarships, their descriptions and criteria can be found at [http://www.decorah.k12.ia.us/academics/foundation/foundation\\_scholarships](http://www.decorah.k12.ia.us/academics/foundation/foundation_scholarships)

**Note:** Once you are in this page, click the Students and Parents tab at the right-hand corner. Find the large red “Click to login” button. Follow the instructions to create an account and login. You will also find “help” documents and videos on this page.

The Foundation is an affiliate of Dollars for Scholars, a national program. Your Dollars for Scholars Student Profile is the basis of the application process. The information you provide determines your eligibility for both a Foundation Scholarship and additional Dollars for Scholars scholarships outside of our area.

## **Student Profile**

You may create and start your Student Profile at any time. You can save a partial profile, and return to edit it, make corrections, or complete new sections. **You MUST complete all steps by March 2, 2020.**

Once you have a Student Profile, you can search for and apply to different scholarships. Foundation scholarships will become active after January 1st. Periodically, you can search for new scholarships, and check for unanswered eligibility questions.

**You must click the 'apply' button on the list of available scholarships in order to be considered for scholarships.**

## **Financial Information**

The Foundation has a number of scholarships that give preference to a student with financial need. To be eligible for these awards, you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) must file the FAFSA, available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Please check with your Guidance Counselor if you have questions about the FAFSA.

**Note:** You will need to submit the FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible. This allows you to receive the Student Aid Report (SAR) before the scholarship March 2 deadline. The SAR report should come about a week after you submit the FAFSA; however, it could take longer.

Once you receive your report, you will need to enter your FAFSA EFC (Expected Family Contribution) number in your Student Profile. The EFC reflects the amount of money you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) are expected to contribute for one year of post-high school education. The EFC remains confidential; the Foundation receives a ranking score for each profile based on the EFC, and never sees the name associated with the EFC Score.

## **Goals and Aspirations Essay**

The Goals and Aspirations Essay is your opportunity to explain why you have chosen to continue your studies. A thoughtful and well-written essay (a minimum of two paragraphs) will let the scholarship committee know what your academic interests are, who has influenced these interests and what you have done to prepare for post-high school education. It is important to not use any names in your essay writing. It may be helpful to write your essay in a word processing program, and then copy and paste it into the correct field online.

## **References**

Contact a teacher you know well to request a reference. Once you have contacted them and they have agreed to serve as a reference for you, submit the teacher's contact information in your Student Profile. An email notice will invite this person to complete the reference online. Please give your teacher plenty of time to write a reference for you.

***You must have completed and submitted all required portions of your profile, test scores, essay question(s), a reference and transcript by March 2nd.***

Notification of awards will be completed by April 1st. The DCSD Foundation Scholarship Award Presentation Night will be Wednesday, May 13, 2020.

Questions about the process or how to use the Dollars for Scholars website may be directed to: Pat Trewin, DHS Guidance Counselor, [pat.trewin@decorah.k12.ia.us](mailto:pat.trewin@decorah.k12.ia.us)

Elizabeth Fritz, DCSD Foundation Scholarship Committee Chair at 563-379-8908, or by email [lizfritz@mac.com](mailto:lizfritz@mac.com)