



2016 POWER Scholarship Application Criteria

POWER is looking for scholarship recipients who will use this opportunity and the education they receive to better themselves and to help others around them.

Overview

Each year, hundreds of applicants apply for the POWER scholarships, however we are only able to recognize 18 deserving recipients.

The selection committee is focused on identifying non-traditional women students, whose education was delayed or interrupted, with a vision to succeed despite any adversities life has presented. We are especially interested in recognizing women who give back to their communities and whose goals and desires for education align with their passions. Additionally, scholarships are given to women who are residents of the state of Indiana and who are pursuing their educational endeavors in the state of Indiana.

This may include women who are returning to school after a hiatus, changing careers, seeking advancement in their career or work life, and stay-at-home moms entering the workplace who are in need of additional education/training. This scholarship is not intended for recent high school graduates or women who are eligible for or have already received other significant financial aid.

Scholarship Information

The money provided by the POWER scholarship may only be used to pay for tuition and fees at an educational institution. The scholarship check will be made directly to the institution with instructions to apply the funds to the student's current account to pay for school tuition, books and fees. If awarded, scholarship funds will be available as of January 2016 and may be paid toward tuition, books and fees from that time until the full scholarship funds are used or the fall of 2019, whichever is first.

There will be 18 scholarships awarded, 2 per each Congressional district for \$750 each. One scholarship will be awarded to a non-traditional woman who is enrolled in courses at a higher education institution in the state of Indiana. The second scholarship will be awarded to a non-traditional woman who is majoring full-time in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics program (STEM) at a higher education institution in the state of Indiana.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Scholarship applicants must currently be a resident of the state of Indiana. Proof of residency is required. Applicants must also be accepted into a program of study at an educational institution in the state of Indiana, as evidenced by a proof of acceptance (either an acceptance letter OR a current school transcript).
2. Applicants must be at least 25 years of age as of the date of the postmark of the application. Applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, and/or physical impairment.
3. Applicants must complete the application form and essay online at www.INPowerCaucus.org and attach all required materials. Application packets may also be mailed to Rep. Robin Shackelford, 200 W. Washington Street, Rm. 336, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. All material being submitted for an applicant (signed application, recommendation letters, and program acceptance letter or current transcripts) must be submitted in **one** package. All material related to an applicant must note the applicant's name and email address. The application package must be postmarked no later than **December 4, 2015**. No exceptions will be made.
4. Applicants are responsible for gathering and submitting all necessary information. Applicants will be evaluated based on the information provided; therefore, all questions should be answered as thoroughly as possible. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
5. Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on a number of criteria, including financial need, other funding received, career/life goals, essay content, leadership and participation in community activities, and honors and awards received.
6. Only a select number of applicants will be chosen as recipients. Recipients will be announced by December 31, 2015. Please email H98@in.gov after that date for a list of recipients.
7. Scholarship recipients will be responsible for any and all taxes that apply to receipt of a scholarship under the law of the state. Applicants should check with the appropriate state agency or with an accountant or lawyer specializing in tax questions. POWER cannot answer any questions about taxes.
8. The 2016 POWER scholarships will be presented and winners recognized at an awards ceremony in the metropolitan Indianapolis, Indiana area. Each scholarship recipient is invited to attend the awards event.
9. All materials submitted become the property of POWER and will not be returned to the applicant.

Additional Information

The primary selection criteria the committee will consider are:

- Financial Need (based upon employment, family contribution, other scholarship funding, other income, etc.)
- Personal Vision (alignment with goals with life journey)
- Service to Community
- Future Plans (how the applicant plans to apply her education)
- Other pertinent information