



## **2021 - City of Whiting Scholarship**

### **About the Scholarship**

The City of Whiting Scholarship was instituted in 2009 as the result of a partnership among elected Whiting officials, the BP Foundation, the Whiting Community Improvement Fund, Lake Park Development, and the Whiting-Robertsdale Community Improvement Corporation. The Scholarship is funded through private donations and donations from the City of Whiting. The BP Whiting Refinery continues to contribute annually to the fund.

The Scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors who are the legal dependents of residents who own and occupy a home in Whiting.

Original awards were for \$2,000 per school year. Beginning with the scholarships granted in 2011, the City of Whiting Scholarship was increased to a \$10,000 award, with \$2,500 being disbursed to the recipient each August for four consecutive years. For scholarships granted in 2014, the City of Whiting Scholarship was increased to a \$12,000 award with \$3,000 being disbursed to the recipient each August for four consecutive years. For the 2015 scholarship award, the amount was increased to a \$16,000 award, with \$4,000 being disbursed to the recipient each August for four consecutive years. For 2016 award, the amount was increased a \$20,000 award, with \$5,000 being disbursed to the recipient each August for four consecutive years. In 2018 and 2019, the award was increased to a \$25,000 award, with \$6,250 being awarded each August for four consecutive years. The 2021 award will also be \$6,250 per year with a four (4) year total award of \$25,000. A 1099 tax form may be issued by the college or university if the combined total of all financial assistance received by the student exceeds the IRS threshold. For the 2021 Scholarship, up to four (4) scholarships may be awarded (including the Plewniak Engineering scholarship introduced below).

For the 2021 graduates, a new restricted scholarship opportunity has been added by the family of Ron Plewniak. The Ronald F. Plewniak Scholarship has been endowed for an eligible applicant who is pursuing an engineering degree. Ron grew up in Whiting and is forever tied to the city's history as "the little boy who lost his leg" in the Standard Oil explosion of 1955. Despite this experience, Ron Graduated from Whiting High School in 1965 and then obtained an Electrical Engineering degree from Purdue University, West Lafayette. He worked his entire career at Inland Steel and was highly respected as the go-to guy to solve complex problems. The goal of Ron and his family with this scholarship is to help an engineering student get traction to lead a productive life.

### **Scholarship Conditions**

To maintain eligibility, students must demonstrate that they are classified by the institution they attend as full-time and must maintain a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) GPA. Students are required to submit their grades to the City of Whiting Clerk-Treasurer's Office at the end of each academic year and are to openly communicate any changes in their scholastic involvement. If a student fails to meet any of the outlined conditions, the Scholarship may be terminated at the discretion of the Committee. The Committee may also consider



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exemptions to these conditions if extraordinary circumstances warrant it. Winners of the Ronald F. Plewniak Scholarship must also remain in the School of Engineering for the entire four years of the award.

### Qualifications

To be considered for the City of Whiting Scholarship, applicants must:

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- Sign a publicity release form
- Be the dependent of a Whiting homeowner who occupies that home
- Attend a regionally accredited institution of higher learning

### Selection Criteria

Each Spring, the Mayor of the City of Whiting will convene an *ad hoc* committee consisting of the Mayor or his/her designee, a member of the Board of Directors of the Community Improvement Corporation, a representative of BP and two members of the academic community. No member of this committee may have a family member applying for the scholarship at the time. This committee, who may request to interview applicants, will determine scholarship winners based on the following criteria:

- 1/3 Scholastic Achievement (GPA, SAT/ACT score, class rank, awards, etc.)
- 1/3 Involvement & Leadership activities within the school
- 1/3 Involvement & Leadership within the community

### City of Whiting Scholarship Application Form

Completed applications must be submitted to the City of Whiting Clerk-Treasurer's Office by 4:30 p.m. on May 3, 2021. Awards will be announced annually at the students' graduation ceremony.

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(last) (first)

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_

College you plan to attend \_\_\_\_\_



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Have you been accepted? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Other colleges to which you have applied

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Intended Major \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you are pursuing an engineering degree and wish to be considered for the **Ronald F. Plewniak Engineering Scholarship** \_\_\_\_\_

Note: to maintain eligibility for this scholarship, the student must remain in the School of Engineering for the entire four years of the award.

**Please list or briefly describe your involvement in the following (include attachment if necessary):**

- 1.) Local community activities (non-school related) in which you have participated, with an emphasis on volunteering, and any work experience you have:

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- 2.) Contributions made to your school and any activities in which you participated. Please include the extent of your involvement:

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- 3.) Any recognition or awards you have received at the national, state, local and school levels. Indicate any other special awards, prizes, and scholarships you have received:

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Please note that the Committee reserves the right to independently verify claims made by applicants.



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### Media Release Form

I am applying for the City of Whiting Scholarship. If granted the scholarship, my parent(s)/guardian(s) and I hereby authorize the City of Whiting to include my name and/or photograph in news or publicity information including, but not limited to newspaper, website, magazines, radio, and television.

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(Applicant)

(Date)

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(Parent or Guardian)

(Date)

**\*Please submit this form with your application along with one original senior photograph of yourself. This photo will not be returned.**

Complete applications will include the following and must be received by the Whiting Clerk-Treasurer's Office no later than May 3rd.

\_\_\_\_\_ City of Whiting Scholarship Application Form

\_\_\_\_\_ Signed Media Release

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Photograph

\_\_\_\_\_ Current Transcript and Class Rank

\_\_\_\_\_ SAT/ACT Scores

\_\_\_\_\_ Three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals affiliated with the activities in which you have participated. At least one of the recommendation letters must be from an individual not affiliated with your school system.



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### Previous Scholarship Recipients

#### 2009 Recipients

Haleigh Suarez	Whiting High School	\$2,000/\$8,000
Ryan Willoughby	Whiting High School	\$2,000/\$8,000

#### 2010 Recipients

Katherine Staley	Whiting High School	\$2,000/\$8000
Aldo Lopez	Whiting High School	\$2,000/\$8000

#### 2011 Recipients

Megan Kazmierski	Whiting High School	\$2,500/10,000
Elizabeth Murzyn	Whiting High School	\$2,500/10,000
Julianne Stribiak	Whiting High School	\$2,500/10,000

#### 2012 Recipients

Jonathan Dietz	Whiting High School	\$2,500/10,000
James Staley	Whiting High School	\$2,500/10,000
Caleb Strabavy	Whiting High School	\$2,500/10,000

#### 2013 Recipients

Elliot Bibat	Whiting High School	\$2,500/10,000
Desiree Kristek	Whiting High School	\$2,500/10,000
Brianna Scivinsky	Whiting High School	\$2,500/10,000

#### 2014 Recipients

Erin Mahony	Whiting High School	\$3,000/12,000
Danielle Mantich	St. Ignatius College Prep	\$3,000/12,000
Elena Sobilo	Bishop Noll Institute	\$3,000/12,000

#### 2015 Recipients

Alivia Jakubowski	Whiting High School	\$4,000/16,000
Nolan Michniewicz	Whiting High School	\$4,000/16,000

#### 2016 Recipients

Alexandra Danielides	Whiting High School	\$5,000/\$20,000
Diana Lopez	Whiting High School	\$5,000/\$20,000
Nina Mantich	St. Ignatius Prep	\$5,000/\$15,000



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### 2017 Recipients

Margaret Mills-Groninger	Whiting High School	\$5,000/\$20,000
Emily Canning	Whiting High School	\$5,000/\$20,000
David Gormley	Whiting High School	\$5,000/\$20,000
Guadalupe Ruiz	Whiting High School	\$5,000/\$20,000
Mary Lowry	Bishop Noll Institute	\$5,000/\$20,000

### 2018 Recipients

Amanda Bonchik	Whiting High School	\$6,250/\$25,000
Rana Hamad	Whiting High School	\$6,250/\$25,000
Timothy Lowe	Whiting High School	\$6,250/\$25,000
Julianna Scivinsky	Whiting High School	\$6,250/\$25,000
Sara Mantich	St. Ignatius College Prep	\$6,250/\$25,000

### 2019 Recipients

Carlos Gonzalez	Whiting High School	\$6,250/\$25,000
Ethan Harbin	Whiting High School	\$6,250/\$25,000
Nicole Jovceski	Whiting High School	\$6,250/\$25,000
Julia Ramirez	Whiting High School	\$6,250/\$25,000
Hayden Shimala	Mount Carmel High School	\$6,250/\$25,000

### 2020 Recipients

Abbey Haynes	Morgan Park Academy	\$6,250/\$25,000
Angelica Jovceski	Whiting High School	\$6,250/\$25,000
Olivia Olson	Whiting High School	\$6,250/\$25,000