

NORTHERN PLAINS EYE FOUNDATION
Continuing Health-Care Education Scholarship

BACKGROUND/ HISTORY:

The Northern Plains Eye Foundation (NPEF) is a non-profit organization, established in 2002, with a mission to enhance eye health through education, research and community service for people of the northern plains region. As part of its educational mission, NPEF began the "Continuing Health-Care Education Scholarship" award in 2006 to support the educational advancement of our previous scholarship winners.

Five (5) Continuing Health-Care Education Scholarships of \$1000 each are available for the 2009-2010 academic year for former NPEF scholarship winners continuing in full-time health-care studies. All health-care related courses of study will be considered, but preference will be given to those focusing on eye-related fields such as Ophthalmology, Optometry, Optician, or Ophthalmology/Optometry Technician.

Students must be residents of the Foundation's service area which extends approximately 300 miles each direction from Rapid City, SD. This area includes all of South Dakota, northwest Nebraska, northeast Wyoming, southeast Montana, and southwest North Dakota. Awards are based on overall academic merit, extracurricular and health-care related activities, leadership, letters of recommendation, and continued health-care or eye-related course of study (see Selection Criteria, Application Procedure and Scholarship Specifications).

Application packets for the Continuing Health-Care Education Scholarships will be mailed to former NPEF scholarship winners. Students may also obtain the application from the NPEF office by calling, writing or in person (see information below), or by downloading the forms on-line.

Application deadline is February 20th, 2009.

CONTINUING HEALTH-CARE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

HOW TO APPLY:

Former NPEF Scholarship winners may request Scholarship application packets by:

1. Sending a letter to: Northern Plains Eye Foundation, Attn: Scholarship Manager
P.O. Box 5568
Rapid City, SD 57709-5568
2. In person by visiting the Foundation at 623 Quincy Street, Suite 101 in Rapid City (directly across the street from the Rapid City Public Library).
3. Telephoning at (605)716-6733 and requesting an application packet.
4. Downloading application materials from our website at www.npef.org/scholarships.

INQUIRIES: If you have any questions or need clarification, call the Scholarship Manager at (605) 716-6733 or e-mail vision@npef.org.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Applicants are required to submit a completed Scholarship Application Form that should be typed or printed in block letters. The application must be accompanied by:

1. A **résumé (one to two pages)**
2. Current **official college/university/trade school transcript** (copies not acceptable)
3. **Two completed Faculty Recommendation forms**; these should be in a sealed envelope with the faculty member signature across the sealed flap or can be mailed by the faculty member to NPEF.
4. A typed **personal statement** [no more than two pages in length], explaining **why you deserve the continuing educational support**, which addresses the following areas:
 - Plans for future study and why you have chosen this health-care field
 - Academic merit (GPA, class standing, Dean's List, academic awards and other honors, etc)
 - Extracurricular activities (clubs, organizations, community service, etc.)
 - Health care-related activities (volunteer or paid) including classes/coursework

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

- Applicants must complete the Continuing Health Education application form and provide all requested information. **Note: Applications must be postmarked by February 20th, 2009 (or hand-delivered to our office by noon on Friday, February 20th).**
- Incomplete or late applications, or those with insufficient postage will not be considered.
- Address applications to: Northern Plains Eye Foundation, Attn: Scholarship Manager
P.O. Box 5568
Rapid City, SD 57709-5568
- A postcard confirming receipt of application will be sent to all applicants.
- A standardized selection process conducted by the Scholarship committee will be utilized in choosing award-winners.
- All applicants will receive written notification of the outcome of their applications.

SCHOLARSHIP SPECIFICATIONS:

- Applicant must be residents of the Northern Plains Eye Foundation service area (see page 1).
- Applicants may submit only one NPEF "continuing" scholarship application form.
- Applicant can pursue any course of college/university/trade school health-care studies. Preference will be given to students interested in eye-related fields—i.e. Ophthalmology, Optometry, Optometry Technician, Optician, Ophthalmology Technician, etc.--however, **all health-care related studies will be considered.**
- Awarding of a scholarship is contingent on continuation of a **full-time** course of study
- The scholarship award is designated for school-related expenses only (i.e., tuition, books, school fees, etc), and will be administered through the college/university/trade school upon proof of continued enrollment.
- No funds will be disbursed until proof of continued enrollment is received by NPEF (it is the recipient's responsibility to get documentation to the NPEF office **by June 30th, 2009**).
- If your college enrollment changes (i.e. field of study, withdrawal from school, deferment, change from full-time to part-time, etc.) from what is indicated in your application, please notify NPEF in writing immediately as this may impact your scholarship.

**NORTHERN PLAINS EYE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
CONTINUING HEALTH-CARE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION FORM 2009**

1. APPLICANT'S DETAILS

a. Last Name: _____

b. First Name and Middle Initial: _____

c. Title: (Mr., Ms., Miss, Mrs.): _____

d. Social Security #: _____ **e. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy):** ____ / ____ / ____

f. Mailing Address: _____
(Street Address or PO Box)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code + 4)

g. Phone: (_____) _____ **E-mail address:** _____
(Including Area Code)

h. Parent's Names and addresses:

Mother _____ **Father** _____

2. ACADEMIC DETAILS:

Name and address of College/University/Trade School attending in 2008-2009:

(Name) _____ (_____) _____
Admissions Office Phone #)

(Street Address or PO Box)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code + 4)

Course of Study: _____ **Check if course of study
has changed**

3. **NPEF has my permission to publish my personal biographical information and
photograph in press releases if I am a Scholarship winner.**

4. DECLARATION:

I declare that the information supplied in this application packet is complete, true and correct.
I accept that the Northern Plains Eye Foundation may cross-reference the application
information with other sources for verification.
If any information provided in my application packet is inaccurate or misleading, I understand
that my application will be rejected and any scholarship award money must be refunded.

Applicant Signature

Date

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST
NORTHERN PLAINS EYE FOUNDATION
CONTINUING HEALTH-CARE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Before submitting your application, check the following:

- 1. Resident of the Northern Plains Eye Foundation service area**
- 2. Application form**
 - a. Answered every question on the application form (typed or printed)**
 - b. Checked Publication release box (#3)**
 - c. Signed and dated Declaration (#4)**
- 3. Résumé (one to two pages)**
- 4. Current official college/university/trade school transcript**
- 5. Two completed Faculty Recommendation forms (in sealed/signed envelope or mailed by faculty member)**
- 6. Typed personal statement update [one to two pages in length] explaining why you deserve the continuing educational support, including:**
 - 1. Plans for future study and why you have chosen this health-care field of study**
 - 2. Extracurricular activities (clubs, organizations, community service, etc.)**
 - 3. Health-care related activities (volunteer or paid), and classes/coursework**
 - 4. Academic merit (GPA, class standing, Dean's List, academic awards and other honors, etc.)**
- 7. Application postmarked by deadline date February 20th, 2009 (or hand-delivered by noon, Friday February 20th.)**