



Descriptions of Scholarships Administered by PPS Foundation

The PPS Foundation has 25 unique scholarships to award graduating seniors from all three PPS high schools. Awards typically range from \$500 - \$4,000. Most of the following scholarships require a completion of an online application between November 1 and March 1 of each school year. Please check out the scholarship tab on our [website](http://www.ppsfoundation.org) for more information – www.ppsfoundation.org

The Chase White Memorial Scholarship is a scholarship awarded to seniors attending Manual High School in memory of Chase White, who passed away in 2018 while serving his country as a U.S. Deputy Marshal. Chase graduated from Manual High School in 1995 as an honor student. He excelled at and played many sports – baseball, wrestling, track and was especially talented at football. His classmates voted him both “Best Personality” and Prom King. Chase attended the University of Illinois and was a member of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity. He later went on to receive his Master’s degree from the University of Oklahoma. He also joined the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Marshals and was awarded posthumously the 2018 Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery. Chase was funny, caring and accomplished. The recipient of this scholarship should embody the attributes of Chase. He had a vibrant and caring personality and was very active in his community. Eligible applicants should be able to describe how their volunteerism and service allowed them to make a difference in their community. This scholarship was created by the family of Chase White and is administered and held by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation. The award amount for this year is \$1,000.

The Coach Van Honorary Scholarship is a scholarship awarded to seniors attending Manual High School to honor the memory of Coach Van Scyoc. Coach Van (as he was called) deeply inspired those students he worked with over the 28 years he spent at Manual. He exemplified the hard work, compassion, ethical standards and academic excellence that he wanted in his players. He helped his students learn these values through the basketball program that he coached. He was dedicated to his basketball players and his ultimate goal was that they further their education by attending college. The characteristics necessary to be considered for this scholarship are hard work, high ethical standards and compassion for others. The scholarship recipient should be the type of person who has a real desire to make their mark in the world; someone who is not afraid of hard work; someone who is always looking for the best in others and someone who wants to leave the world a better place than they found it. Eligible applicants should have a least a 2.3 GPA and have participated in an extra-curricular activity during high school. Financial hardship will also be given some weight. This scholarship was created by the family of Coach Van Scyoc and is administered and held by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation. The award amount for this year is \$1,000.

The Deven Howard Lane Memorial Scholarship was established by the family and friends of Deven Lane to honor his memory and acknowledge the importance of mental health/suicide awareness. This scholarship is for graduating seniors at Richwoods High School who have participated for at least one year on the cross country team. Deven was a graduate of the Richwoods class of 2022 and was a dedicated cross country runner. He was always the person to crack a smile or a joke and without a doubt illuminated every room he stepped into. He excelled academically (especially in math), was extremely passionate about cars, and loved his black Ford Fiesta known as “Miley”. Deven continued to pursue cross country running at the University of Illinois, where he was attending for a degree in engineering. This scholarship is administered the Peoria Public Schools Foundation. The award amount for this year is \$1,000.

The Diane Thannert Scholarship is a scholarship for the young women at Richwoods High School who have demonstrated an interest in athletics. The recipient of this scholarship must have been involved with an

athletic program at the high school for at least two years. Mrs. Thannert was very active in sports during high school. She wanted to set up a scholarship to honor young women at Richwoods High School that exemplifies sportsmanship as well as excelled in academics. Mrs. Thannert, along with her daughter, set up this scholarship in 2012. Her children also attended Richwoods High School. This scholarship is administered and held by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation. Typically, award amounts are between \$1,500-\$3,000.

The Edward N. Woodruff Scholarship is a scholarship established by Mary M. Woodruff through in 1956 in honor of her father, Edward – who was the mayor of Peoria for a total of 24 years between the years of 1903-1945. Originally, this scholarship was specifically for students graduating from Woodruff High School (for which the school is also named after him). However, in recent years the fund agreement was legally changed to allow any graduating senior from a Peoria Public High School to apply. This scholarship is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The award amount for this year is \$950.

The Elizabeth Rasmussen Scholarship was established by Robert Rasmussen to honor the memory of his wife, Elizabeth Rasmussen, and allow her love of education to carry forward by providing students with a scholarship for post-secondary education. Elizabeth was a life-long educator and a beloved teacher in the Peoria Public Schools district. She was employed at Charter Oak at the time of her death. Preference is given to a student who is planning on studying education. This scholarship is administered and held by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation. The typical award amount is \$1,000.

The Genevieve Kroepel Cahail Scholarship was established in 1994 by Genevieve Kroepel Cahail. “Gene” Kroepel and Robert Cahail each taught at Manual High School for approximately 30 years, she in the English department and he in the science department. She established this scholarship, with an emphasis on exceling at physics, to honor her husband Robert Cahail, who she married after they both retired. This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior at Manual High School. It is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The award amount for this year is \$3,700.

The H.E.A.R Scholarship was originally established in 1977 and later administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation when the H.E.A.R Board of Directors and members voluntarily dissolved their corporation. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide funds to graduating PPS seniors who are hearing-impaired and have received services in Central Illinois. Recipients are selected based on their character and potential for success in post-secondary education and most submit two letters of recommendation. This is also a renewal award so previous recipients can apply to receive funding each year they are in post-secondary school. . This scholarship is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. Typically, award amounts are between \$1,000-\$3,000.

The Jamie Epstein Scholarship is awarded to any multi-faceted male or female senior student at Richwoods who is expected to attend a four-year university or community college. Richwoods faculty and staff nominate the candidates, and the final selection is made by a committee. This scholarship is awarded to the student who best embodies the attributes of Jamie Epstein, who was a 2000 Richwoods graduate and passed away in a car accident in 2001. Jamie ran cross country, played softball, participated in chorus, sang in Madrigals, and was in a school musical. Jamie was not the fastest runner, the best hitter, or the finest singer. Instead, she gave of herself to make the whole better by understanding the common goal: working hard and having fun. This scholarship is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The award amount for this year is \$2,500.

The John L. Dismuke Jr. Scholarship is a scholarship that was established by the family and friends of John Dismuke in memory of him. John attended Richwoods High School, where he both participated and lettered in various sports, including track, baseball, and football and was named the Athlete of the Year his senior year. He was part of the 1971-1972 team inducted in the 1997 Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame class. Once graduating high school, John enrolled at Southern Illinois University and was an engineer at Caterpillar. He was also committed to fitness and developed an unwavering passion for playing tennis. He became a member of both the Peoria Tennis Association and the USTA, competing throughout the Midwest. This scholarship is open to any Peoria Public School senior in good standing with a minimum 3.0 GPA and has participated in a sport for more than 2 years (including senior year). The applicant must be planning on attending a two or four-year college or university with a plan to major in a STEM related field of study. This scholarship is administered and held by the PPS Foundation. The award amount for this year is \$1,000.

The John K. Garrett Scholarship is a scholarship established by local community members and the family of the late John K. Garrett who was a beloved administrator and superintendent in the Peoria Public Schools District 150. Applicants had to be involved in or with community service organizations. This scholarship is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The typical award amount is \$500.

The John W. Gift Scholarship is a scholarship established in memory of John W. Gift who was a prominent businessman in Peoria. More specifically this scholarship gives preference to those planning to pursue a business-related field. This scholarship is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. Typically award amounts are between \$1,000-\$2,000.

The Kenny Ward III Scholarship is in memory of Kenny M. Ward who passed away unexpectedly on October 21, 2017 from an Aorta Aneurysm. He was a 2016 Peoria High graduate and was studying at Sullivan University to become a chef. On April 21, 2018, Sullivan University posthumously awarded him his associates degree in Culinary Arts. The recipient of this scholarship must be involved in the Culinary Arts program in Peoria Public Schools and have a desire to have a career path in the Culinary Arts. The recipient is selected based on staff recommendations and the strength of their essay question answers. The scholarship is administered and held by the PPS Foundation. The award amount for this year is \$1,000.

The Laurie and Gregory Beard Scholarship is provided by Parallaxes Capital, which is a leading alternative asset manager that focuses on esoteric assets. Parallaxes Capital has established this scholarship because one of their Board Members is from Peoria. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide funds to a graduating senior from Peoria who will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign the following school year. This scholarship was established in 2020 and is administered and held by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation. The typical award amount is \$4,000.

The Lynn Pastucha Scholarship is awarded to a student who embodies the attribute of Lynn Pastucha. While at Richwoods, Lynn played on the girls' varsity basketball team for four years. She was an inspirational player who positively influenced her individual teammates while elevating her team's collective level of play. Lynn played the game of basketball with a passion. Her desire to improve her play and the work ethic which she employed to attain her goals was exemplary. Lynn was respected by her coaches, teammates and opponents on the court. She established several state defensive records, but her true contribution to the game was a genuine enthusiasm for the sport. This scholarship is administered by the

Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The award amount for this year is \$1,500.

The Manual High School/Eureka College Scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors from Manual High School who plan to enroll at Eureka College. It is a scholarship for students who have demonstrated high academic achievement, service in school, church, and/or community, leadership, character, and citizenship and who hold high potential for making positive contributions to the world. This scholarship was established in 2006 through a donation to the PPS Foundation. It is administered by the PPS Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The award amount for this year is \$1,500.

The Nevada Buckley Manion Scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors from Manual High School. It was established by Nevada Manion in her honor and through her last will and testament. The recipients of this scholarship must be planning on attending a four-year college or university and are selected based on the merits of their applications and the strength of their answers to the essay questions. This scholarship is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. Typically, award amounts are between \$1,000-\$4,000.

The Lieutenant Colonel Norman E. Emery (Ret.) Scholarship was established to create a living legacy in honor of United States Army Lieutenant Colonel Norman E. Emery (Ret.), who was a graduate of the Peoria High School Class of 1985 and a decorated veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from Peoria High School whose answers to essay questions and letter of recommendation show that they honor service to country, community and family that Norman's life exemplifies while also overcoming obstacles with courage, grace, dignity and selflessness. This scholarship is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The award amount for this year is \$1,000.

The Randy Simmons Scholarship is in memory of Randy Simmons, who was a product of Peoria Public Schools. He was a graduate of Manual High School and had 35 plus year career serving Peoria Public Schools. During that time Randy Simmons was a teacher and coach at Manual High School before moving into administration, eventually serving as Principal of Calvin Coolidge Middle School, Von Steuben Middle School and Peoria High School. His dedication, passion and love for students along with a relentless pursuit of excellence set him apart from the rest. To honor his memory and dedication, a graduating senior from Manual, Peoria High and Richwoods High are selected each year based on the characteristics of leadership, high character, respect and honor. The recipient must have a passion for fitness, athletics and/or extra-curricular activities and a passion for learning. The recipient is also a people person who brings energy and passion to everything they do while always putting others first. This scholarship is administered and held by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation. The typical award amount is \$1,000.

The Richwoods Class of 1971 Giving Back Scholarship was created by the Richwoods Class of 1971 Giving Back Committee. The members of this class acknowledge the many benefits received during their high school education at Richwoods and want to provide financial support to graduating seniors who desire to further their education, whether in a trade or vocational school, a junior college or 4-year university, and whose character and fortitude are such that they too will one day want to give back to future generations of students. Eligible applicants must have at least a 2.5 GPA, be involved in an extra-curricular activity, and provide 2 letters of recommendation. This scholarship is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held by the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The award amount for this year will be \$2,500.

The Rick Snarr Enduring Spirit Scholarship was created in memory of Rick Snarr who passed away in August 2021. Rick was an alum, teacher and long-time coach at Richwoods High School. He had two guiding principles in coaching and in life: (1) Do the best you can with the skills you have and (2) Always be available to lend a helping hand. He led by example and consistently showed that he would go the extra mile to make Richwoods a better place. He drove the bus, he mowed the field, he painted the gym floor and led the renovation of the RHS baseball field in the 1990s. He was the quintessential team player. This scholarship was created by Rick's lifelong Richwoods High School friends to award to the male and female athlete that best demonstrates the values that Rick emphasized in his coaching career. The recipients will not necessarily be the recognized star of the team but will have consistently demonstrate qualities that make their team better by putting the team's success ahead of their own. This scholarship is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. \$2,000 each will be awarded to the male and female athlete recipients.

The Urban Forestry Scholarship was established by a group of Urban Foresters to promote their profession and is open to any graduating seniors from a PPS District 150 high school. Preference is given to applicants who plan to pursue a course of study in an Urban Forestry or related field (such as forestry, horticulture, landscape architecture or design, biology, etc.). This scholarship is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The award amount for this year is \$900.

The Wayne Macomber Scholarship was founded by local community members and the family of the late Wayne Macomber who founded the Richwoods High School Madrigals. Through his timeless commitment, he had nurtured and sustained the Richwoods Madrigals for 28 years (from 1974-2001). Wayne was also responsible for the creation of the Richwoods boys and girls soccer programs, in which he coached both. This scholarship is awarded to an applicant who participated in the choral program and/or soccer program at RHS. This scholarship is administered by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation and held at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The award amount for this year is \$875.

The Zeb Gardner Memorial Scholarship was created by the family of Zeb Gardner in his memory. Zeb passed away in October 2017 and was the grandfather of former Richwoods High School golfers, Romi and Gia Gardner. He loved both golf and family and never missed a match when his granddaughters played. This scholarship award will be given to a member of the Richwoods High School Girls Golf Team who best exemplifies the traits of sportsmanship, leadership, character, honesty, and kindness. The recipient must be going continuing their education after high school but does not necessarily need to be planning on playing on a college golf team. This scholarship is administered and held by the Peoria Public Schools Foundation. This year \$500 will be awarded to the recipient.

The Peter J. Pasquel & Family Culinary Scholarship was created in 2023 in honor of Peter J. Pasquel and his career in the Food Service Industry. Peter was involved in the restaurant and food service industry in central Illinois for over 70 years and was passionate about helping local chefs and restaurants succeed. This scholarship is awarded to an applicant who has at least a "B-average" GPA (3.0), has a financial need, and is pursuing a culinary or food service industry related degree post high school. The PPS Foundation administers and holds the funds for this award. Typically, the award amount is \$1,000.