



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for contacting the Conference of Women Legislators (COWL) regarding your interest in a COWL scholarship.

The COWL scholarship seeks to maximize educational opportunities for all income levels by offering tuition assistance to mature (age 25 or older), deserving women who show evidence of furthering their education in order to make a contribution to their government, children, families, and community.

The one-year scholarship will cover, **tuition, books and fees up to \$2,500 per year, including summer school.** The chosen school must be in the State of Illinois, either private or public, must be accredited, with a minimum of seven credit hours required. The scholarship does not cover room and board.

COWL endeavors to support women who, for various reasons, have not had the opportunity to begin or complete their education at an earlier stage due to life changes and/or financial difficulties. Further, COWL encourages women of all races, religions, creeds, and ethnic backgrounds to apply for the scholarship.

- The Awards Committee will consider volunteer or paid service work that promotes the welfare of these populations or demonstrated leadership in creating a new approach, program, strategy that benefits them. You should provide some evidence of continuity in the work you have performed. You must also be able to submit two (2) highly supportive personal reference letters.
- The applicant must be attending, or planning to attend, (seven semester hours minimum) an accredited college or university in the fall of the year as a full-time or part-time student. Applicants must also provide an official transcript of academic work. If applicant has not attended college, they must provide a copy of a high school diploma or GED.
- Must be a resident of the State of Illinois.
- Be accepted at your school of choice.
- Complete the official application along with a short essay on your personal background and goals.
- All applicants must obtain and submit the required recommendations with the application.
- Submit official transcripts from the last two years of your educational institution or academic program.

- Applicants must provide a list of all educational institutions attended with dates
- Applications and supporting documents must be postmarked by April 9, 2010. You will be notified of the decision by May 7, 2010.
- All funds will be paid directly to the school. Any funds not expended for tuition, books and fees must be returned to the Conference of Women Legislators.

Please complete the official application form and return to:

COWL Scholarship Committee
c/o Deborah Murphy
P.O. Box 10161
Springfield, IL 62791

If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Murphy at cowl.ilga@yahoo.com

Applicants must also complete the COWL "Scholarship Waiver of Confidentiality" form. It is required that all applicants sign the form in the presence of a notary public and return along with your application.

Very truly yours,

COWL Co-Chairs

Heather Steans
State Senator

Sandra M. Pihos
State Representative