

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE



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- Committees:
 - Chairperson
 - Licensed Activities
 - Vice-Chairperson
 - State Government
- Member
 - Agriculture
 - Commerce & Economic Development
 - Education
- Commission:
 - Legislative Audit Commission

Date: 04/03/09

To: Harry Pfeiffer

Fax #: 217-854-2032

Pages (including cover sheet): 7

From:

Scott Cain

Senator Deanna Demuzio

Cindy Miller, District Secretary
217-854-4441

Comments: _____

_____ *Thanks!* _____

_____ *Scott* _____



Conference of Women Legislators

TO: All Legislative District Offices
FROM: Representative Constance A. "Connie" Howard
COWL Scholarship Chair
DATE: January 30, 2009
RE: Conference of Women Legislators 2009-2010 Scholarship Program

The Conference of Women Legislators (COWL) a not-for-profit organization and a bipartisan coalition of women legislators in the Illinois General Assembly, has announced the 2009-2010 Scholarship Award Program. COWL created the scholarship program as part of its mission to promote economic independence, community services and leadership development. The scholarship program is geared to assisting mature women who are seeking to earn college degrees. Each grant will be \$2,500.

Scholarship applicants are required to enroll in an accredited college or university for a minimum of seven credit hours to qualify, making the scholarships available to a part-time student. In addition to academic achievement the scholarship committee also considered volunteer or paid community service work that benefited women in transition. The deadline for applying is April 10, 2009. Awardees will be notified of the decisions by April 30, 2009. Scholarship applications may be downloaded from the COWL website at www.cowlil.com.

Attached are a sample press release and a COWL Scholarship package for distribution in your district. Suggested locations for distributions of scholarship packages should include community colleges, YMCAs and women's shelters.

Those seeking additional information may email questions to cowl.ilga@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 10161, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62791 WWW.COWLIL.COM

Mission Statement: To work in a bipartisan fashion through legislation and advocacy. To advance the interest of all Illinois women, through state, local and federal initiatives.

News

From the Illinois House of Representatives

For Immediate Release
January 2009

Representative Constance A. "Connie" Howard
217-782-6476

LEGISLATORS HELP WOMEN PURSUING A SECOND CHANCE

(Springfield) The Conference of Women Legislators (COWL) a not-for-profit organization and a bipartisan coalition of women legislators in the Illinois General Assembly, announce their 2009-2010 Scholarship Award Program. COWL created the scholarship program as part of its mission to promote economic independence, community service and leadership development. Scholarship committee members include Representatives Constance A. "Connie" Howard (D-Chicago), Suzanne Bassi (R-Palatine), Marian Antonia "Toni" Berrios (D-Chicago), Naomi Jakobsson (D-Champaign), Renee Kosel (R-Monkena), Linda Chapa LaVia (D-Kane), Monique Davis (D-Chicago), Sen. Denanna Demuzio (D-Carlinville), Sandra M. Pihos (R-Glen Ellyn), Cynthia Soto (D-Chicago), Howard, Chairwoman of the committee, announced that scholarships of \$2500 each will be awarded. These college scholarships are aimed at helping women who are earning their college degrees, later in life in some cases.

"One of the gaps in the state college aid programs is assistance for women who may have had their education interrupted by plans to start a family or who never had a chance to start college until later in life. These non-traditional students don't fit neatly into any programs," Howard said. "Rather than pass a law to create a new grant, we started raising money to fund scholarships on our own. It's a pilot program that has been quite successful.

Scholarship applicants are required to enroll in an accredited college or university for a minimum of seven credit hours to qualify, making the scholarships available to a part-time student. In addition to academic achievement the scholarship committee also considered volunteer or paid community service work that benefited women in transition. The deadline for applying is April 10, 2009. Awardees will be notified of the decisions by April 30, 2010. Scholarship applications may be downloaded from the COWL website at www.cowlil.com.

The majority of the charitable funds raised by the group come from annual fundraisers, such as "Capitol Capers", featuring performances by lawmakers from around the state.



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, 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 cumulative transcript of academic work and 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.

- Deadline for applications and supporting documents must be received via mail by April 10, 2009. You will be notified of the decision by April 30, 2009.
- 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 cowlil.lga@yahoo.com

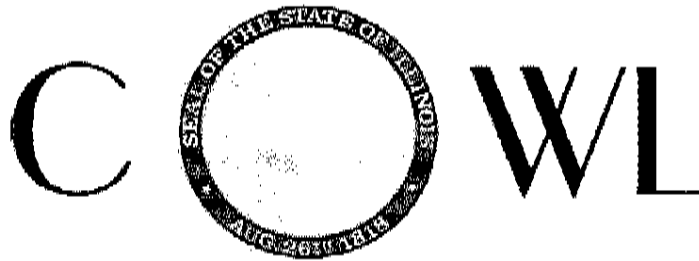
Applicants must also complete the COWL "Scholarship Waiver of Confidentiality" form. It is required that all applicants sign the form in the presence of a notary public and return along with your application.

Very truly yours,

COWL Co-Chairs

Heather Steans
State Senator

Sandra M. Pihos
State Representative



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____ PHONE (_____) _____

FAX (_____) _____ EMAIL _____

HIGH SCHOOL: GED HIGH SCHOOL H.S. NAME _____

H.S. CITY & STATE _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION/GED _____

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION (Universities, Community Colleges, Technical/Trade Schools, Certificate Programs, or Military Service) – ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGE(S) AS NEEDED.

NAME _____ CITY & STATE _____

DEGREE/CERTIFICATE/AWARD GRANTED _____

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY COWL SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE APPLIED _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM/MAJOR: _____

ESSAY: Write a one to two (1-2) page essay on the importance of this scholarship to you. Include why you are motivated to continue your education as a mature woman, and how you can make a contribution to other women, families, children and your community, as a result of furthering your education.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS: Attach any documents that would strengthen your consideration for this scholarship.

REFERENCES: Please request two (2) strong letters of reference from people who are familiar with your contributions to sources that focus on serving women, children, families and local resources for these populations. This should specifically speak to the nature and quality of your community service work and how it has benefited or influenced the lives of these people. Request that your letters of references be printed on the organization letterhead/stationary of the author and include signature and title of the author. Include this reference letter with your application, personal essay and other documents.

Applicants must also submit a completed COWL "Scholarship Waiver of Confidentiality" form.



SCHOLARSHIP WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY

If I am awarded a COWL Scholarship offered by the Scholarship Committee of the Illinois Conference of Women Legislators for the 2009 academic year, I hereby give permission to have my name released to the public, as a scholarship winner, along with the name of the educational institution I will be attending.

I further attest to the accuracy of the information included on my application. If selected as a recipient, any misrepresentation of information or false documentation will result in automatic forfeiture of the scholarship.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Witness Signature