



D D L R
S c h o l a r s h i p F u n d

DDLRL Scholarship Fund

Committed to assisting undocumented students from the Chicagoland area in reaching their dream of attending a four year college/university.

Dennis' Story – May 2012 *“At the age of eight, my parents made a drastic decision to move from Mexico to the United States. At this young age, I was unaware of the challenges I would have to face for being undocumented; however, by the time I was a high school senior it became evident. Financing for college is extremely difficult, especially if limited resources are available. As an undocumented student, I was not eligible for financial aid, nor was I qualified for most scholarship opportunities. Consequently, I decided to start my college education at Moraine Valley Community College where tuition could be affordable for me and my family.*

As a freshman, I tried out for the baseball team and immediately earned a starting spot on the team. I was fortunate enough to receive an athletic scholarship by the spring semester which helped out my financial situation. As a sophomore, I continued to play and earned a full scholarship. Despite the time and commitment the baseball team required, I was committed to the opportunity of earning a college degree. At the end of my sophomore season, I was named on the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference All-Academic team as I finished my general education with a 3.6 GPA.

After Moraine Valley Community College, I transferred to the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Fall of 2010. At UIC, tuition was very expensive and unaffordable to me and my family, which meant I would need to start working. I was fortunate enough to find a job as a delivery biker for a local restaurant in downtown Chicago. I started working 30 hours a week at minimum wage but tips are what made UIC more affordable. I enrolled in a payment plan offered by UIC that would require monthly payments of over 1,200 dollars all year round. I clearly would not be able to afford 1,200 dollars a month, but I did my best to reach the mark every month. Most of the time I was short a few hundred dollars, but with the support of my family, I was able to make the payments.

Being a full-time student and working close to a full-time job was very difficult in my first semester. My whole life revolved around school and work, and left me with no time for my friends and family. The effects could also be seen in my grades, as I received my first three C's on my transcript. I was pretty upset the whole winter break and made a promise to myself that I would learn how to manage my time better, and I did. I have since been able to balance work, school, and my social life without affecting my goal of earning a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. After this four-year journey, I sit here proud to say I will become the first person in my whole family to graduate from a four-year university, ironically on Cinco de Mayo 2012.”

AMOUNT One individual scholarship of **\$2,500** for the 2020-2021 academic year to be disbursed in equal payments at the beginning of each semester.

QUALIFICATIONS **Applicant must meet the following qualifications:

- Be an undocumented student (DACA not required)
- Be a current college student either already enrolled for at least 12 credit hours at a 4-year institution or at a community college and transferring to a 4-year institution in the '20-'21 academic year.
- 3.0 overall GPA
- Demonstrated leadership (via athletics, employment, student organizations, community service, etc)
- **This is NOT open to current high school seniors attending a 4-year institution in the fall**

REQUIREMENTS **Applicants must **upload** the following items to complete the application– **ALL AT ONCE VIA THE ONLINE FORM:**

- **Certification form:** see below, page 5
- **Career Plan:** Statement that describes your personal/career goals and your plan to achieve those goals. (500 words)
- **Essay:** Some people fail in school, but end up being successful in life. Why do you think that is the case? What is the most important thing to succeed in life? (500 words)
- **Transcript:** Submit an official transcript from the school at which you are currently enrolled.
- **Resume:** Submit a 1-page professional resume that includes work experience, academic accomplishments, leadership roles, and other relevant activities.
- **Letter of Recommendation:** Submit 1 letter of recommendation from a peer (close friend, coworker, classmate, etc) that knows you well.
- **Acceptance Letter:** If you are a community college student, provide the acceptance letter (or email with your name on it) that shows your acceptance to the 4-year institution you will be attending in the Fall of 2020.

It is best for students to look through all the requirements, finalize them, and **THEN** submit the application as there is no way to save progress. Please see the requirements page and the checklist to ensure all material has been submitted.

DEADLINE

The completed application is due on or before **April 15th, 2020**. The application is not considered complete unless all required documents are appropriately attached to the online submission form. It is highly recommended that applications be submitted early to avoid any issues with being incomplete.

INTERVIEW, SELECTION, and NOTIFICATION

The scholarship committee will review all timely submitted application materials. Early submission is **highly** encouraged. Finalists will be selected and notified that they are invited for an interview by the end of April. After all the interviews have been conducted, the committee will contact applicants who have been selected as scholarship recipients. Scholarship recipients are expected to attend the DDLR Scholarship Memorial Day Softball Tournament in May where they will be recognized as scholarship recipients. The recipient **MUST** be present at tournament to receive the award.

***The scholarship committee will ONLY notify the finalists who are selected to proceed with the application process.**

QUESTIONS

Feel free to visit our website: ddlrscholarship.org and/or our Facebook page: DDLR Scholarship. Updates will be sent out periodically.

Certification Form

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, all information in my application is correct. I also certify that I meet all scholarship requirements. I further understand that I may be disqualified if I provide inaccurate data. If I am awarded a scholarship from the DDLR Scholarship Fund, I am aware that it is my responsibility to attend the DDLR Scholarship Fund Memorial Day Softball Tournament in May. I am also aware that this scholarship award will only be applied to a 4-year institution. If this is not met, the award will be rescinded.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Checklist

- _____ Career Plan (500 words)
- _____ Essay (500 words)
- _____ Certification Form
- _____ Transcript
- _____ 1- Page Professional Resume
- _____ Peer Recommendation
- _____ Acceptance Letter/Email

DEADLINE The application is due on **Wednesday, April 15th, 2020**. Please keep in mind that all material must be submitted at once. It is best to have documents saved and ready to be uploaded when submitting the application.

Email: ddlrscholarship@gmail.com

Facebook: DDLR Scholarship

Twitter: DDLRScholarship

Instagram: DDLRScholarship

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply to this scholarship?

- Undocumented students looking to pursue their bachelor's degree
- Currently attending, or transferring to a 4-year institution in the Fall of 2020.

I will be attending a community college. Can I still apply? No. This scholarship will only be awarded to an accredited 4-year college/university. However, if you are a current community college student and you will be transferring to a 4-year institution for the '20-'21 school year, then you are encouraged to apply.

When is the application due? Monday, April 15th, 2020, 11:59PM. We recommend students submit applications EARLY (prior to April 1st).

What happens after I submit my application? Applicants that move on to the interview round will be notified the last week of April. **ONLY finalists will be contacted.** Interviews will be conducted between the 1st and 3rd week of May based on availability. Finalists will be informed via email and we will announce them via our website/facebook page as well.

Is this scholarship based on financial need? No. This scholarship is based on merit, extracurricular involvement, and leadership.

Who is the ideal candidate? The ideal candidate is someone who has demonstrated focus, leadership, and perseverance. Someone who is goal-oriented and relentless in furthering themselves academically and professionally.