



FISHBURN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarship Guidelines
2025 External

Scholarship Background

The fund was formed with funds donated to the Karen Fishburn Memorial Fund after her passing in September, 2013. Karen's dedication to numerous Morrow County organizations and countless hours of volunteer work for organizations such as the Red Cross, Key Ministries, Morrow County Association of Business Women, Morrow County Board of Elections, and Marengo United Methodist Church, resulted in an unprecedented community outpouring at her calling hours. Annual scholarships are the Fishburn family's way of honoring Karen for many years to come.

Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates must be graduating seniors or graduates of Highland Local Schools in Sparta, Ohio, or a past recipient; other Morrow County school applicants will not be excluded.
- Candidates must have a minimum 2.7 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale.
- Candidates must be pursuing a four-year degree, full-time.
- Candidates must be U.S. Citizens.

Selection Criteria

- 30% Financial Need
- 30% Qualities that honor the attributes of Karen and Jack Fishburn, including Character, Leadership, Work Ethic, and Community Service
- 20% Recommendations and Essay
- 20% Academic Achievement

Selection Committee

- Representative, Family of Jack and Karen Fishburn
- Principal, Highland High School
- Staff Member, Highland High School, designated by Principal
- Staff Member, Highland High School, designated by Principal
- School Counselor, Highland High School

Award Amount

Minimum \$2,000

Renewal Criteria

The scholarship is not renewable, although recipients may reapply.

Payment Instructions

All awards are paid directly to the educational institution.
The scholarship may be used for tuition and books, provided enrolled full-time status. The scholarship must not displace any institutional or other aid.

Application Requirements

- Essay
- Resume
- Transcripts
- FAFSA Submission Summary
- Two Letters of Recommendation

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- Note: Interviews may be requested.
- Check if a past recipient has applied and include their application with the new application

Scholarship Availability

The scholarship may be used at any four-year college or university in the U.S.

Deadline

3/1/2025

Application and Award Process

- The Columbus Foundation sends notification of the scholarship's availability each year to eligible schools.
- Candidates complete the online application by the deadline.
- After the deadline, The Columbus Foundation reviews complete applications for eligibility.
- The Foundation sets up the selection committee meeting.
- After the meeting, the Foundation sends award emails to the high school guidance counselor who will disburse the letters to avoid unnecessary stress during the awards program, while maintaining some element of surprise for the recipients.
- Once proof of enrollment has been submitted and approved by the Foundation, a check will be sent to the recipient's educational institution.

School | Organization Contacts

Highland High School
Chad Carpenter
Principal
Chad_c@hlsd.us
Highland High School
Jordan Kennedy
Guidance Counselor
Jordan_k@hlsd.us
Katie Pauley
Guidance Counselor
Katie_p@hlsd.us
Denise Stillwell
Secretary
Denise_st@highlandfightingscots.org

Columbus Foundation Contacts

The Columbus Foundation
Scholarships Team
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Other Notes

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