**MEOA Scholarship 2021**

**General Information:** The Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association (MEOA) is pleased to invite you to nominate an applicant for the MEOA Annual Scholarship Award program. The MEOA Scholarship program was created in 1988 to assist undergraduate students in their pursuit of higher education.

**six scholarships of $750.00 each** will be awarded to eligible college students who have demonstrated the ability to overcome great obstacles and attain educational excellence. The selection of recipients will represent the diversity of students, both traditional and non-traditional, that are served by the Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) represented by the MEOA membership. This is in keeping with MEOA’s long time commitment to ensure that all individuals have access to an appropriate higher education.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The nominee must:

* Be a ***current*** ***participant*** or ***graduate*** of an Educational Opportunity Program in Massachusetts
* Be enrolled in a college or university, or set to enroll following high school graduation.
* Be pursuing a degree in an undergraduate or graduate program.
* Have demonstrated an ability to overcome educational obstacles.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

The following must be entirely completed to be considered for this scholarship:

* A nomination form and letter of recommendation from an EOP professional and MEOA member in good standing with membership dues current. Contact Taryn Tomkins, MEOA Membership Chair at ttomkins@massedco.org to verify your membership status. **Please note: each member of MEOA will only be allowed to nominate one student per year. Multiple students from the same program can be nominated but each student must have a separate sponsoring nominator.**
* Application Packet completed by applicant must be neat and legible.
* Most recent transcript.
* Two page personal essay as detailed on Student Application Form (must be typed with page numbers).
* 2021-2022 financial aid award letter or 2020-2021 financial aid award letter for returning college students.
* Submit a signed consent and release form.

**Recipients must:**

* Attend the Scholarship Award Ceremony on Friday October 15, 2021 at the **Devens Common Center (Tentatively) Devens, MA**, if possible.  If it is *impossible* for a recipient to attend, a video acceptance speech *must* be submitted instead.
* Supply a picture/digital image (yearbook size).
* Provide an electronic copy of their personal essay.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE** The completed application with **ALL** requested information must be emailed by **Friday, May 28, 2021**. No applications will be considered if incomplete and/or submitted later than this date. Recipients will be notified in early September.

**E-MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**

**Sandy Tavares**

**stavares@mwcc.mass.edu**

**MEOA Scholarship 2021** Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association

**Student Application Form**

**(To be completed by nominee**)

 

**Please write neatly or type.**

|  |
| --- |
| Student Name: Date:  |
| Street Address:  |
| City: State: Zip Code:  |
| Email Address:  |
| Telephone Number: Cell Phone Number:  |

**What college/university will you attend in the fall of 2021?**

|  |
| --- |
| Institution Name:  |
| Street Address:  |
| City: State: Zip Code:  |

**Personal Essay**

Your personal essay must be typed and cannot exceed two pages. This is the opportunity to explain, in your own words, why you deserve this scholarship. Your essay should address ***ALL*** of the following:

* Your resiliency and ability to overcome obstacles.
* Your level of activity; please highlight any significant involvement in your educational opportunity program, volunteer work in community or employment.
* Describe your educational achievements, academic success or improvement.
* Describe your educational goals and how the MEOA scholarship could make these goals more attainable.
* Describe ***in detail*** your financial situation and how you would utilize the scholarship. Please include any other financial assistance that you will receive for college such as federal, state, or college financial aid, or other scholarships so that the committee has a clear understanding of the financial resources available to you.

**MEOA Scholarship 2021** Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association

**Consent and Release Form**

**(To be completed by student/nominee**)

 

The Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association (MEOA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, tax-exempt organization made up of educators, policy makers, professionals in the private sector and other individuals committed to ensuring that secondary and post-secondary educational opportunities are appropriate and accessible to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. In order to promote its program, MEOA issues publications, annual reports, newsletters, fact books and press releases, and posts on various social media and websites.

All scholarship applicants’ essays and applications become the property of MEOA. By submitting application materials, applicants grant MEOA the right to use their name, likeness, and all application materials in publications as the board sees fit. This may include all forms of print and electronic media, as well as all MEOA publications, newsletters, alumni information and other documents.

My photo and essay or parts of my essay may be published in the following places: (please check your preferences)

\_\_\_\_\_ All of the below

\_\_\_\_\_ Only those items I have checked

\_\_\_\_\_ MEOA Conference Booklet

\_\_\_\_\_ MEOA Website

\_\_\_\_\_ MEOA Fact Book (used for advocacy and educating lawmakers)

\_\_\_\_\_ MEOA Newsletter

\_\_\_\_\_ MEOA social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not want my photo or essay to be published

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(print name) hereby acknowledge that I have reviewed and understand the purpose of this disclaimer, which is given to me by MEOA. I attest that I am legally eligible to sign this release as an adult who is at least eighteen years old or as a parent/guardian signing on behalf of my child. I grant MEOA full permission to utilize pictures, quotations and video of me or my son/daughter for publications, advertising and public relations. I hereby release MEOA and any of its associates or affiliated companies, their directors, officers and employees from all claims of every kind on accounts of such use. I understand that I may revoke this agreement at any time by contacting MEOA officers and requesting such action be taken.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association

SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION FORM 2021

*(To be completed by an EOP professional/nominator)*

**Type/Print *Student/Nominee’s Personal Information:*******

|  |
| --- |
| Student Name: Phone Number:  |
| Street Address:  |
| City, State and Zip Code: Email Address: |

Thank you for nominating the above-mentioned student for the MEOA scholarship. Scholarships are awarded to students in Massachusetts for demonstrating that they have overcome obstacles, have had success with their educational goals, and strive to continue that success at a higher educational institution. The nominator must be an MEOA member. The review committee is interested in having a clear picture of who this student is, so please be very thorough, and provide as many detailed examples, as you can. ***Please note: Each nominator will be limited to one student nomination per year.***

On a separate page, please answer the following questions. Please type.

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the nominee?
2. What are the nominee’s personal circumstances that prompted you to nominate him/her? In your opinion, how has the nominee overcome these obstacles or barriers to reach his/her goals?
3. Highlight any student essay components that you deem significant for the scholarship committee.

**CERTIFICATION**

By affixing my signature, I do hereby certify that the nominated student meets all of the stipulated eligibility criteria for the MEOA Scholarship.

|  |
| --- |
| Signature of nominator: Date:  |
| Print Name: Title: |
| Institution/TRIO Program:  |
| Mailing Address:  |
| Phone Number: Email:  |

Nomination packets (**nomination form, nominator letter of recommendation, student application, essay, most recent transcript, signed consent and release form, and financial aid award letter**) must be emailed by **Friday, May 28, 2021**. Please be sure everything is completely filled out and that all required documentation is included.

*Incomplete packets* ***WILL NOT*** *be reviewed by the committee.*

**Send all materials to:**

**Sandy Tavares**

**Email: stavares@mwcc.mass.edu**