

2012

Scholarship Program



FOUNDATION FOR RURAL
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Students please submit your applications to your nominating OPASTCO member by **January 30, 2012**, so that they may prepare a letter of nomination. All completed applications must be received in the FRED offices by Monday, **February 13, 2012**. Due to the lengthy review process, no extensions can be made. Applications will **ONLY** be accepted by mail. Applications **CANNOT** be faxed.

Send complete applications to:

FRED Scholarship Committee
2020 K Street, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

FRED will mail confirmation postcards to all students by February 29, 2012. If you have not received your postcard by March 4, 2012, please notify the FRED offices.



FOUNDATION FOR RURAL
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

General Scholarships: **\$1,000 - \$5,000**

Telecommunications Internship Scholarships: **1,000**

Associate Membership Scholarships: **\$1,000**

*Featuring the \$5,000 Everette Kneece
Return to Rural America Scholarship*



Please direct all questions to FRED's Program Coordinator at:
202/659-5990 ext. 264 or fred@opastco.org.

Deadline to apply: February 13, 2012

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, the FRED Scholarship Selection Committee convenes to evaluate the FRED scholarship applications. Scholarships range from \$1,000 - \$5,000, and an estimated \$75,000 is available in 2012. Both high school seniors and students already attending postsecondary schooling are eligible to apply. Students, parents, school guidance counselors, and nominating OPASTCO member companies are encouraged to read through the entire application booklet, as there are some changes from previous years.

COMPANY PARTICIPATION RESTRICTIONS

The review committee will accept no more than four (4) applications from each nominating company. Holding companies may only submit one (1) application per LEC or subsidiary telephone company. Associate members of OPASTCO affiliated with a telco may only submit applications if the telco or holding company is also a member of OPASTCO.

TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

General Scholarships: \$1,000 - \$5,000

Through these scholarships, FRED recognizes outstanding students who have rural backgrounds, are interested in pursuing careers in the telecommunications industry *or* show an interest in returning to rural America.

Telecommunications Internship: \$1,000

FRED has a special interest in supporting the education of students who have performed well as interns or part-time employees of their local telephone companies. To be considered for this scholarship, applicants must include the dates employed, the name of the employing company, the name of their supervisor, the supervisor's contact information to include telephone number, and a brief summary of the internship.

Associate Member Scholarships: \$1,000

At least one scholarship is set aside each year to be awarded to a student nominated by an Associate member. Please note that an Associate member is defined as a *company that supplies goods or services to a Telephone Company member*. Associate members of OPASTCO affiliated with a telco may only submit applications if the telco or holding company is also a member of OPASTCO.

Everette Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship

In 1992, FRED awarded its first two scholarships thanks to a very generous donation from Everette Kneece of PBT Telecom. Mr. Kneece along with other OPASTCO members, created FRED as a means to support independent telephone companies, their rural communities, and their youth. Through the Everette Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship, FRED honors Mr. Kneece's pioneering efforts. Without his vision, FRED would not be the valued foundation that it is today. This scholarship provides one outstanding student with \$5,000 to cover the cost of tuition, housing, fees and books. In accordance with FRED's mission to promote education in rural areas, this scholarship will be awarded to a student who shows the desire to live and work in a rural community after completing his or her education.

FAQ ABOUT FRED SCHOLARSHIPS

Where can I find more information on FRED scholarships?

The FRED web site, www.fred.org, contains further information on scholarships, including sample financial need statements, nomination letters, letters of recommendation and other helpful hints.

What is FRED? What is OPASTCO?

FRED is the Foundation for Rural Education and Development, a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation established in 1989 by the Organization for Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO), a trade association for small rural telecommunications companies and the vendors that service these companies. For more information about FRED, visit www.fred.org. For more information about OPASTCO, visit www.opastco.org.

Who may apply for a FRED scholarship?

Any student nominated by an OPASTCO member company who is attending or planning to attend an accredited college, university or trade/vocational school may apply. Both U.S.- and Canadian-based OPASTCO member companies are eligible and encouraged to nominate students. Students who are applying for post graduate studies are not eligible to apply.

May previous FRED scholarship winners apply?

Yes, students may apply until they have received their second scholarship. At that time, they are not eligible to reapply in subsequent years. All FRED scholarships are one-time awards with the exception of the J. Benedict Ackley Scholarship, which is a 4-year scholarship.

May students apply for more than one scholarship type?

Yes. Students may submit one application and be considered for all scholarships for which they are eligible. Note that the Telecommunications Internship Scholarship requires additional materials as indicated on the application form. Students are not eligible to receive more than one FRED scholarship each year.

Are Associate members eligible to nominate students?

Yes. Each year, at least one scholarship is awarded to a student nominated by an Associate member of OPASTCO. Associate members are vendors that provide services to telecommunications companies. Telephone companies are not Associate members.

May I submit a photocopy of this application form?

Yes. OPASTCO member companies may make photocopies of this application to distribute to multiple schools and schools may photocopy applications for students. In addition, this application may be downloaded from www.fred.org.

How do recipients receive the scholarship checks?

In late August 2012, scholarship checks will be made out and mailed to the college or university where the recipient will be attending. These checks will be directly deposited into the student's account. The checks will be in the accounts by the second week of September.

2012 FRED SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION - DEADLINE FEBRUARY 13, 2012

Individuals applying for FRED scholarships are not discriminated against on the basis of disabilities, race, color, sex, national origin, etc.

All applications must be completed and received (not postmarked) in the FRED office by February 13, 2012. Students: Please submit your application to your nominating OPASTCO member by January 30, 2012, so that they may prepare a letter of nomination. The scholarship committee reviews only complete applications. Failure to complete or provide any of the following information will result in the disqualification of the application. For additional information on scholarships, including sample applications, please visit www.fred.org.

Scholarships Available: General Telecommunications Internship (requires additional information)* Associate Member Ackley Memorial Scholarship (NY State students only)

Nominating Company (must be a member of OPASTCO): _____ Is this a Holding Company? _____

Company Contact : _____ E-mail: _____

Applicant's name: _____ E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Current GPA: _____ Class rank: _____ of _____ Current grade/year of study: _____ Expected date of graduation: _____

SAT score: Critical Reading: _____ Math: _____ Writing: _____ Composite Score: _____ **ACT scores:** Math: _____ English: _____ Reading: _____ Science: _____ Composite Score: _____

Full-time Student? _____ Type of degree to be pursued: _____ Field of study: _____

Name of school you plan to attend: _____ Financial Aid Office Phone #: _____

Do you have a job? _____ Employer: _____ Hours/week: _____ Have you received a FRED scholarship before? _____ If yes, year: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Parent/Guardian Contact: _____ E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

PERSONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT (please attach a copy of your EFC, if available)

What is the current marital status of your parent/guardian(s)? _____

Parent/Guardian 1's income: \$ _____ Parent/Guardian 2's income: \$ _____

INCOME (most recent year data available 2010/2011)

Financial or other help from parents: \$ _____

Scholarships or other awards: \$ _____

Applicant's estimated savings: \$ _____

Any other applicant income (including any anticipated part-time earnings): \$ _____

Please state any additional factors for your financial position
(e.g.: additional children attending college, poor health of a family member)

EXPENSES

Course tuition & fees (annual amount): \$ _____ per year

Living expenses during the year

Educational Housing: \$ _____

Food: \$ _____

Travel: \$ _____

Other: \$ _____

Other: \$ _____

Total Living Expenses: \$ _____ Per year

Please include the original application and two collated copies (for a total of three complete applications). Before sending in your application, please check to make sure you have included **three copies** of the following documents in the order given (use paperclips - no staples):

1.) Scholarship application form & Personal Financial Statement (+copy of EFC, if available)

2.) School transcripts (please remove from envelopes)

*Optional: Summary of Internship (Telecommunications Internship Scholarship ONLY)

3.) Essay

4.) List of extracurricular activities

5.) OPASTCO member nomination letter

6.) One letter of recommendation

Applicant's signature: _____ Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail complete applications with all materials to: FRED, Attn: FRED Scholarship Committee, 2020 K Street, NW, 7th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006

SCORING CRITERIA

Students are evaluated based on five (5) specific scoring criteria listed below. The maximum number of points available is 100 with some areas weighed more heavily than others. Point assignments are listed next to each criteria. Students are encouraged to read this section carefully, as it shows how the selection committee scores applications and awards scholarships.

① Academics (25 pts.)

Students will be evaluated on standardized test scores and GPAs. To be eligible for FRED scholarships, students must rank among the top national 50 percentile in standardized test scores (ACT or SAT) and have at least a 3.3 GPA that covers course work in all disciplines.

② Activities (20 pts.)

School-related activities alone will not be sufficient to receive the highest level of points.

To receive points, students should:

- ♦ participate in activities (e.g. volunteering) that contribute to their community;
- ♦ hold leadership positions; and
- ♦ demonstrate a continuity of involvement in their activities.

③ Letter of Nomination & Recommendation (5 pts.)

Students are required to include a letter of nomination from an OPASTCO member company and a general letter of recommendation. The company's nomination letter should show a degree of personalization and include information about the student that may not have been covered in the rest of the application materials. The other letter of recommendation should convey information about the student within the context of his or her relationship with the reference (teacher, principal, coach, employer, etc.). The letter should not be written by a family member. Sample letters may be found at www.fred.org.

④ Financial Need (25 pts.)

Applicants must complete the Personal Financial Statement on the application form to receive points in this category. If available, please provide as an attachment the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), as determined by the Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA). In addition, it is the committee's expectation that the student will be forthcoming about any other sources of financial aid he or she will have, such as other scholarships, family trusts, and other relevant information.

⑤ Scholarship Essay Questions (25 pts.)

Each applicant is required to respond to the three questions listed below. The essay must answer all three questions, be typed, double-spaced, and contain a total of 250-750 words. Essays will be evaluated on technical accuracy (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.) and how clearly the student answers the questions. The selection committee is interested in unique, well-written and thoroughly proofed essays from applicants. To receive points, essays should clearly address all of the following topics:

- ♦ Describe how living in a rural community has shaped you as an individual.
- ♦ What experience, outside of school, has made the biggest impact on your life?
- ♦ How do you plan to pay for the costs of your education and how will a FRED scholarship help you attain your financial goals?

NEW YORK STATE STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP: \$2,000

The J. Benedict Ackley Scholarship is open to any high school senior in the service area of a New York OPASTCO Telco member. If the recipient of this scholarship maintains a G.P.A above a 3.0, he/she will receive an additional \$2,000 award each subsequent year for a maximum of four years. The total possible scholarship amount cannot exceed \$8,000. This scholarship has been made possible by a donation from the Ackley Family Charitable Trust.



TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

- 1.) Read the entire application before you begin;
- 2.) Fill out all the information requested as the review committee will not consider incomplete applications;
- 3.) Return 3 complete copies of the application form to the FRED office by the deadline;
- 4.) Thoroughly proofread your essay and ask a teacher, parent or classmate if they can review it for you;
- 5.) Contact your local OPASTCO company early to ensure they can supply a letter of nomination; and
- 6.) Request official copies of your transcripts in early January.