Richard Eikenberg One Voice Scholarship
Washington, D.C. Trip

Scholarship Guidelines

What is One Voice?

One Voice is a non-partisan coalition created by the Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council (EDC). It is a pro-community campaign that brings together leaders from the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal, McLean County, surrounding rural communities, labor, local educational institutions and local private businesses in support of specific economic development projects and issues in McLean County. Each spring, the One Voice Task Force travels to Washington, D.C. to meet with our congressional delegation to show them our community stands united in support of community issues involving projects, initiatives and infrastructure improvements. For those projects needing funding we meet with the federal agencies that may have grants or funds available. The ultimate goal of One Voice is to engage our federal representatives and to obtain federal funding for our community. One Voice does not lobby for policy or regulatory change and is not affiliated with any political party, movement or policy organization.

The main purpose of the 2017 trip was a “fact finding mission” due to the change of presidential administrations, the group’s primary focus was to determine what changes are being made to grant programs and funding policies under President Trump and how our efforts can be best adjusted.

The 2017 trip sought funding information for further mental health and jail initiatives in McLean County through the Department of Justice. We sought details from the Department of Education on Perkins loans, Pell grants, and international student well-being due to international travel policy changes. We presented a project to the Department of Labor for a future exhibit at the McLean County History Museum and also discussed workforce development initiatives and connecting labor to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs. We also searched for funds to finish a south side transportation corridor in Bloomington and to kick start development along the Main Street Corridor through assistance at the Department of Transportation.
One Voice 2018: Washington, D.C. Trip Details:

The 2018 One Voice trip will take place March 6th – 8th. The scholarship covers all expenses of the trip, from flight and hotel to all meals and events. Specific trip details will be presented at our pre-trip briefing for all participants – Wednesday, February 28th, 2018 (tentative date). The scholarship recipient MUST attend the pre-trip briefing – NO EXCEPTIONS.

Nearly 35 local community, business and labor leaders attend the trip. During the trip, we meet with our U.S. senators and representatives, along with leaders of other government agencies. This trip is an amazing opportunity to meet and network with local leaders and discuss current issues in federal government with the primary decision-makers. Participants also attend receptions and meetings with speakers from various economic development-related institutions. There is also limited time for sightseeing opportunities.

About the Scholarship:

The Richard Eikenberg One Voice Scholarship was created in 2008 in honor of Richard Eikenberg, past EDC board chair. The scholarship allows one local college undergraduate student (from an EDC investor school – Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, or Heartland Community College) to participate in the One Voice Washington, D.C. trip. The scholarship covers all expenses of the trip, from the flight and hotel to all meals and events. It is truly an amazing experience for one deserving college student.

The selection process is based on applicants’ responses to an essay question, volunteer/civic engagement experience and their personal interest in the trip opportunity. The top three finalists are then interviewed by a committee made up of EDC staff and EDC Board members.

Past Recipients

2017 – Emma Shores, Illinois State University
2016 – Keith Rohman, Illinois State University
2015 – Javier Padilla, Illinois State University
2014 – Jessica Garber, Illinois State University
2013 – Amie Burke, Illinois State University
2012 – Jonathan Nelson, Heartland Community College
2011 – Grant Anderson, Illinois State University
2010 – Paige Maynard, Illinois Wesleyan University
2009 – Grace Leopold, Illinois State University
2018 Eligibility Requirements & Guidelines:

Students interested in being considered for the One Voice Scholarship must complete the following steps:

1. The attached application must be **completed and submitted by NOON on Thursday, November 16th, 2017** to the EDC office (or emailed to: amy@bnbiz.org).
2. Recipient must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA. **A transcript must be included** (transcript does not need to be an official copy).
3. The application must include one letter of recommendation from a reference familiar with the student’s scholastic ability and work.
4. The application must include a list of volunteer or extracurricular activities.
5. The application must include an essay (maximum 500 words). Essay Question: As a student how can you be a “voice” and an influence in your community?
6. Recipient must be an undergraduate student at an EDC investor school (investor schools include Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University and Heartland Community). Recipient may be from any area of study.
7. Scholarship finalists (up to three) will be asked to submit to an interview with EDC staff and EDC board members the week of November 27th.
8. Recipient must be available to attend the pre-trip briefing and the entire Washington, D.C. trip, including all scheduled activities during the trip and briefings prior to the trip.

**Important Dates to Note:**

- **Thursday, November 16th, 2017** – Applications must be submitted to the EDC office
- **Week of November 27th, 2017** – The top three finalists will be interviewed
- **Week of December 4th, 2017** – The scholarship recipient will be announced
- **Wednesday, February 28th, 2017** – Pre-trip briefing meeting *** Tentatively scheduled for this date
- **Tuesday, March 6th – Thursday, March 8th, 2018** - One Voice Trip

**Contact Information:**

If you have any questions please contact Amy Denham or Mike O’Grady at the Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council at (309) 452-8437 or by email at amy@bnbiz.org or mike@bnbiz.org. For more information about One Voice, you can also visit the EDC’s website at www.bnbiz.org/programs/one-voice.

*BThe Washington D.C. trip dates are subject to change. The Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council (EDC) is under no obligation to provide a trip to Washington D.C. or any other location under this program. The EDC may cancel or modify the trip as it finds necessary and is under no obligation to provide a trip to scholarship recipient due to changes and schedules modifications beyond the EDC’s control.*
Reflections on One Voice by Keith Rohman, Illinois State University, 2016 Scholarship Recipient

After being a part of the One Voice trip, I can truly say that it was an inspiring and amazing experience. It is impossible to stress how thankful I am to have been included in this event as great minds from so many different areas of specialty in the community come together and create this “One Voice” with a purpose. The attitude, energy, and focus emanated from everyone I met on this trip was contagious and is only going to continue back home in the community as everyone works collaboratively taking steps toward higher quality of life for citizens and the development of our economy. Being born and raised in McLean County, it was refreshing to gain awareness into all the great projects that require extensive research, data, and outreach from dedicated local officials, all tailored to better our community. Our state Senators and Representatives we met with listened to our projects and responded to our presentations with guidance and great points of focus for ways to advance the work. They showed an appreciation for why our delegation had come together and were impressed to see such a large, diverse group from our locale all visit them in the nation’s capital for such a coordinated effort.

As a Senior at Illinois State University during the course of the trip and preparation stages, I saw the opportunity from a professional standpoint. Now that the experience is through, there is no value I could place on what it meant to receive the Dick Eikenberg Scholarship. The countless networking opportunities presented to me have made me feel more connected with community members and confident for the future as I enter the workforce. The staff from the Economic Development Council was great. They provided me with a whole new set of tools I could not have imagined acquiring and I can’t thank them enough. Not only did they directly involve me in helping with planning for the trip, but they challenged me to get involved by communicating with others and in front of others. They showed trust and interest by allowing me to work with them and in the presence of so many community leaders. They laid the groundwork for an experience I will never forget and I will continue to take everything I learned with me as I segue into the professional world. The Dick Eikenberg Scholarship and the 2016 One Voice trip topped off my senior year at Illinois State University, and would recommend any prospective student considering applying for this Scholarship as it will help develop them professionally and in any other ways they choose to take away from such an unparalleled opportunity.
Richard Eikenberg One Voice Washington, D.C. Trip 2018
Scholarship Application

All applications must be received by NOON on Thursday, November 16th, 2017

Applicant Information

Name:__________________________________________________________

Address:______________________________________________________

Phone:________________________Email:___________________________

Birthdate:___________________Cumulative GPA:__________________

School:_________________________________________________________________

Major/Minor:_________________________________________________________________

Supporting Documents

1. Current college transcript (transcript does not need to be an official copy)
2. One letter of recommendation
3. List of volunteer or extracurricular activities
4. Essay (maximum 500 words). Essay Question: As a student how can you be a “voice” and an influence in your community?

Submit Application & Supporting Documents to:

Email: amy@bnbiz.org

or Mail:  (Must be received by 11/16/17)
Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council
Attn: Amy Denham
200 W. College Ave., Suite 402
Normal, IL 61761