

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 (BNEDEC). 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.

During the 2018 trip we visited the Department of Transportation where Connect Transit sought funds for a transfer center in Downtown Bloomington as a way to provide more capacity for buses and better passenger amenities and the Town of Normal sought funds for a pedestrian and bicycle underpass near Uptown Circle and the Uptown Station Multimodal facility. We also met with the U.S. Small Business Administration to build a relationship and learn about loan programs, capital investment networks and SBA grants to further build the entrepreneurship ecosystem in our community.

One Voice 2019: Washington, D.C. Trip Details:

The 2019 One Voice trip will take place March 5th – 7th. 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 27th, 2019 (tentative date). The scholarship recipient **MUST** attend the pre-trip briefing.

Thirty local community, business and labor leaders attended the 2018 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 sight-seeing 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

- 2018 – Kadi Ilves, Illinois State University
- 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

2019 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 15th, 2018** 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 26th**.
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 15th, 2018 – Applications must be submitted to the EDC office

Week of November 26th, 2018 – The top three finalists will be interviewed

Week of December 3rd, 2018 – The scholarship recipient will be announced

Wednesday, February 27th, 2017 – Pre-trip briefing meeting *** Tentatively scheduled for this date

Travel with EDC Staff Monday, March 4th – Thursday, March 7th, 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.



**The Washington D.C. trip dates are subject to change. The Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council (BNEDC) 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 BNEDC's control.*

Reflections on One Voice by Kadi Ilves, Illinois State University, 2018 Scholarship Recipient

I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to participate in the One Voice trip to Washington, D.C. as the Richard Eikenberg scholarship recipient. This was a truly unique chance for me to meet community leaders from such diverse backgrounds and learn about the dedicated work they do every day to make our community a better place to live. It was enlightening to see the overwhelmingly positive feedback from Congressional representatives as they expressed how impactful it is when all these diverse members of the community rally together to support economic development projects with one voice. The importance of reaching across the aisle and putting aside differences when working towards a common goal is a lesson I will take with me as I begin my professional career.

I would highly recommend applying for the Richard Eikenberg scholarship to any student that is interested in the Bloomington-Normal community and want to become more involved with local life outside of campus. It is difficult to overstate the value of the connections I made with the wonderful staff at the EDC, local leaders, and Bloomington-Normal expats in D.C. In addition to meeting community leaders and learning about important project and topics for the community, the One Voice trip also challenged me to develop my networking and public speaking skills. I am certain that this experience made me more prepared for my professional career and I will always value the connections I made on this trip.



**Richard Eikenberg One Voice Washington, D.C. Trip 2019
Scholarship Application**

All applications must be received by NOON on Thursday, November 15th, 2018

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 11/15/18)
Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council
Attn: Amy Denham
200 W. College Ave., Suite 402
Normal, IL 61761

