



The Community Foundation
of Western North Carolina

MARILYN LESTER AND WILLIAM LESTER SCHOLARSHIP

Fact Sheet

DESCRIPTION

The Lester Scholarship Fund was established by Marilyn Lester to reflect the pride that she and her late brother, William (Bill) Lester, felt in being Asheville natives and their affection for growing up in Asheville. Most especially, Marilyn Lester wanted to express appreciation for the education she and Bill Lester received in the Asheville City Schools system, particularly at Lee Edwards High School (now Asheville High School).

Marilyn and Bill's mother, Nina, encouraged them to consider any college or university for their own education "as long as it was in North Carolina and state-supported." Her confidence in North Carolina's system of state universities to provide an excellent education is honored by this scholarship, which provides an award for study at specific state institutions.

This scholarship offers a renewable award to help recipients with their educational expenses.

ELIGIBILITY

The Marilyn Lester and William Lester Scholarship is available to graduating seniors of Asheville High School. In 2010, the fund will offer one award of up to \$2,000 renewable for three additional years, for a possible total award of \$8,000 over four years. **The student must plan to attend one of the following state institutions in North Carolina: Appalachian State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Asheville, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, or Western Carolina University.** Awards are for full time attendance in a standard course of study.

The Community Foundation scholarships will be awarded without regard to age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religious belief, or any other characteristic protected by law.

SELECTION CRITERIA (in order of importance)

- Demonstrated financial need
- Academic ability/achievement (minimum 3.5 GPA in a challenging academic curriculum)
- Median or above performance on standardized tests (SAT)
- Active participation in extracurricular activities in school and community

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply, students must complete an application available in the office of the Asheville High School guidance/college counselors. The application with required attachments (see application checklist) must be returned to the guidance office on or before the deadline stated on the application.

ESSAY

In addition to the personal and college statements requested as part of the application, an essay is an additional required component of the application for this scholarship. Please submit a composition (two double-spaced typed pages) on your feelings and experiences growing up in or living in Asheville and how you think this will impact your future.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Advisory Committee for the Lester Scholarship will be composed of a minimum of three (3) persons representing the Lee Edwards High School Class of 1965. The Committee will review all applications and select each year's scholarship recipient based on the stated eligibility and selection criteria. The recipient and all finalists will be notified of the committee's selection after approval by The Community Foundation's Board of Directors in mid-May. Scholarship recipients are selected on an objective and competitive basis, considering the stated criteria for the scholarship.

PAYMENT OF AWARDS

Payment of scholarship awards will be made directly to the school in the summer prior to the start of the fall semester.

Recipients will receive a payment designation form from the Foundation with their award letters. Payments will be issued after the Foundation receives the completed form and signed letter of acceptance, but no earlier than mid-July. Awards are for the full academic year, and as such are split between the fall and spring terms.

Students must notify The Community Foundation of the receipt of any other educational grants or scholarship assistance as soon as the student receives notification of those awards.

Scholarship recipients must provide The Community Foundation with an official transcript from the school attended at the end of each school year for which a scholarship is received. An official transcript is one obtained from the school (not online) which bears an official school seal.

**DOWNLOAD THE COMMON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION,
CONTACT THE ASHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPT. FOR AN APPLICATION,
OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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