

Lakeshore ATHENA® Scholarship

For Women Pursuing Education and Training Opportunities



A T H E N A
I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Application postmarked by July 30, 2017

About the Lakeshore ATHENA Scholarship

About the Lakeshore ATHENA Scholarship

The Lakeshore ATHENA Scholarship is a cash award given to assist non-traditional female students pursuing advanced training and educational opportunities. The scholarship is part of the Lakeshore ATHENA Award, a collaborative program of the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg and Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. The scholarships are made possible through the generous support of individual and corporate sponsors.



The Lakeshore ATHENA Program celebrates individuals who:

- Demonstrate excellence, creativity, and initiative in their business or profession.
- Provide valuable service by contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community.
- Actively assist women in realizing their full leadership potential.

Applicant Qualifications

Applicant Must:

- Be a female who has completed at least one year of post secondary education or the equivalent by May 31, 2017.
- Be at least 30 years or older.
- Be enrolled for the fall semester of 2017 at an accredited 4 year, 2 year, or higher education program.
- Demonstrate a commitment to educational attainment and a professional career.
- Live or work in Ottawa, Allegan or Muskegon County.
- Have limited financial resources.

To Apply

We encourage those women who meet our qualifications to apply for the Lakeshore ATHENA Scholarship. One or more scholarships are given out each year.

Step 1

Please complete the application form on the following page. Essay questions should be typewritten and attached separately. You must also attach a minimum of two letters of recommendation. These should be on official letterhead from someone who knows you in an educational, professional, or volunteer capacity. Please use the reference questions on the application as a guide. We also require your financial information to demonstrate need.

We strongly encourage you to complete the application online:

www.grandhavenchamber.org
www.muskegon.org
www.westcoastchamber.org

Step 2

Letters of Recommendation:

You are responsible for collecting your letters of reference and including them with your application. Please use the following guidelines and have your references answer the three questions listed below:

_____ is applying for a scholarship from the Lakeshore ATHENA Scholarship Program. Please write a letter addressing the following points, and submit on letterhead:

- How long, and in what capacity, have you known this woman?
- Please describe the attributes this individual possesses to successfully pursue her educational/career goals.
- Please include your name, address, and phone number.

Required Information:

1. **Completed application including your signature**
2. **Two letters of recommendation on letterhead.**
3. **Most recent official transcripts**
4. **Page 1 & 2 of 2016 1040 tax return (cross out SS#)**
5. **Written Responses**
6. **Proof of enrollment for the next semester**

Please submit the complete application and all information in the order listed above. Please do not staple application materials. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Lakeshore ATHENA Scholarship Application

Step 3

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Michigan Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone - Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Age: _____ Birth Date: _____

Number of Dependents: _____ Marital Status: _____

School Attending Fall 2016: _____

Start Date: _____ Expected Graduation Date: _____

Employer: _____

Responses

Please provide responses to the following questions on an attached sheet in complete sentences.

Limit your responses to 250 words per question.

1. Include a statement listing your household's gross income (earnings, child support, etc.), your monthly expenses (rent/mortgage, insurance, child care, loans, credit card payments, etc.), your savings and/or investments, and your annual tuition costs.
2. Why are you applying for this scholarship? What other scholarships, loans, grants, or sources of funds have you applied for? Which of them have been awarded and in what amounts?
3. If you do not receive financial assistance, how will you finance your education? Does your employer offer any financial support toward your education?
4. Describe your professional and educational goals including your top three career goals. Explain how you plan to reach these goals.
5. What is your educational history since high school and what have you been doing professionally for the past five years?
6. Identify two or three accomplishments or activities that illustrate an interest in your professional goals.

Certification

In submitting this application, I certify that the information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I will notify the ATHENA Scholarship Program of any change in my educational status.

Signature _____ Date: _____

We may contact you for additional information. The selection process may also involve a phone interview. When is the best time to reach you? At what number? _____

Complete Financial Information

Send to

Step 4

To be completed by Financial Aid Office at college. (Please allow at least one week turnaround time for your financial aid office to complete.) This information should be 2016-2017 FAFSA Information.

Applicant is considered:

Independent: Student (and spouse's) gross annual income \$ _____

Dependent: Parents' + student's gross annual income \$ _____

Total Student Expense Budget \$ _____

Anticipated Resources

Estimated Family Contribution \$ _____

Scholarships and Grants \$ _____

Other Resources/Work Study \$ _____

(Do not include loans)

Total Resources \$ _____

Unmet Need (Total Student Expense Budget less

Total Resources) \$ _____

A representative of the college/university Financial Aid Office provided the financial information listed above.

Signature _____

Title _____

Phone _____

Date _____

Please send entire Lakeshore ATHENA Scholarship application to:

**Ann Baarman
West Coast Chamber of
Commerce
272 E. 8th Street
Holland, Michigan 49423
ann@westcoastchamber.org
616-928-9106**

Keep a copy of all materials submitted. If you are a finalist, a phone interview will be scheduled. All applicants will be notified by August 31, 2017. Scholarship recipients are recognized at the awards luncheon on **October 3, 2017 at Trillium Events in Spring Lake, Michigan. All recipients are expected to attend and may bring a guest.**

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