

2011-
2012

Quest For Education
Scholarship Program



what you need to know

The Award

The 2011-12 school year kicks off the sixteenth season for Vantage Credit Union's *Quest For Education* Scholarship Program. We will award twenty \$1,000 scholarships to members who qualify and are graduating high school seniors, to be paid directly to the recipients' chosen educational institution.

Eligibility

Any Vantage Credit Union member who is a graduating high school senior may apply for this scholarship. Each applicant must have a Vantage Credit Union account in his/her name. If you are not a member, you may open an account and become eligible to apply. Applicants who have a full scholarship are not eligible for this award. Vantage Credit Union employees, Board and Committee members and their families are also not eligible to receive this award.

Application

The *Quest For Education* Scholarship application consists of one essay from the student; two letters of recommendation—one from a teacher whom the applicant has had for class and a second from a sponsor, employer or coach (sponsor = an individual who has directly and actively led an extra-curricular activity or organization in which the applicant has participated); and the student activity sheets. Detailed requirements for essay and letters of recommendation are listed on separate form.

All parts of the application should be typed on a separate sheet of paper if space provided is not sufficient. **All required information must be included** (see forms for details). PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE. PLEASE USE BLACK OR BLUE INK. NO PENCIL.

NOTE: We strongly suggest you have all recommendation letters returned to you (the student), and then mail or bring all your forms in at one time. This will ensure all parts of your application are received before the deadline. Applications that are still incomplete after the deadline will be disqualified.

Selection

Financial need is not a criterion for this award, nor is class rank, SAT/ACT score or grade point average. **DO NOT INCLUDE INFORMATION SUCH AS GPA, GRADES, TEST SCORES, CLASS RANK, ETC., OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. THIS ALSO INCLUDES ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED OR MENTIONED IN LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.**

Applications are judged on:

- ⇒ **Student Essay:** Should address what the student hopes to gain from a college education, his/her career goals and aspirations, and why he/she is deserving of the *Quest For Education* Scholarship.
 - Ideas/Content:** Essay is clear, focused and addresses the assigned topic. It holds the reader's attention.
 - Organization of Essay:** The organization enhances and showcases the central idea.
 - Sentence Fluency:** The essay has an easy flow and rhythm.
 - Conventions:** The writer demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions (e.g. grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, paragraphing) and uses conventions effectively to enhance readability.
 - Word Choice:** Words convey the intended message in a precise, interesting and natural way.
- ⇒ **Student Activity Sheets (to be filled out by the student):** Should outline any awards received, participation in extra-curricular school activities, community activities/volunteer programs, and any employment information.
- ⇒ **Recommendation Letters:** Should address the applicant's character; what the teacher/sponsor believes are his/her greatest attributes; specific accomplishments; examples of educational, employment and/or community leadership; his/her potential for future personal achievement; and why the teacher/sponsor feels the applicant deserves a *Quest For Education* Scholarship.
- ⇒ **Credit Union Membership** (applicant's)

Applications are judged by a group comprised of Vantage Credit Union volunteers and employees. All decisions are final.

Important Dates

Completed scholarship applications **must be received** no later than **Friday, December 2, 2011**. *Applications received after this date, regardless of postmark, will be disqualified!*

Judging will take place from December through February of 2012, and winners will be notified by Friday, March 2, 2012.

scholarship form

Date Received _____

Branch _____

Teller #/Initials _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ VCU Account Number: _____
(required)

Home Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____ Phone #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian Full Name(s): _____

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

High School: _____ District (if applicable): _____

High School Graduation Date: _____

CAREER PLANS

Future Occupation: _____

AUTHORIZATION

I certify the information within this application is true, complete and accurate. I authorize the confirmation and verification of information contained in all sections of this application, including essay, activity sheets, and recommendations. Upon notification of receiving a Quest For Education Scholarship, I authorize the use of my name in press releases and other print materials.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please complete this form and attach it to your personal essay, letters of recommendation and activity sheets (NO STAPLES PLEASE).

You may deliver your application to any of our branches, or mail it to:

**Vantage Credit Union
Marketing Department
4020 Fee Fee Road
Bridgeton, MO 63044-2734**

No faxes or e-mails will be accepted. Applicant must have his/her own Vantage Credit Union account—**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Your application **MUST BE RECEIVED** no later than **Friday, December 2, 2011.**

Applications received after this date, regardless of postmark, will be disqualified!

For more information, call the credit union's Marketing Department at 314.298.0055 or 800.522.6009.

Carefully read and follow all directions. Verify your application with the checklist on the back before returning.

(All applicants will receive consideration for a scholarship without regard to sex, race, color, national origin or ancestry, religion, age, handicap, financial need or marital status.)

THIS APPLICATION IS VALID ONLY FOR THE 2011-2012 QFE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

what you need to do

Copy this page and give to your respective references when requesting a letter of recommendation. Have them return their completed form to you along with their letter. The information listed below is required for your application to be eligible for judging.

PERSONAL ESSAY

Please use a separate sheet of paper; be sure to include your name and signature on your essay page.

In your essay, address what you hope to gain from a college education, your career goals and aspirations, and why you are deserving of the QFE Scholarship. See inside cover page for selection criteria. **Do NOT include information such as GPA, grades, test scores, class rank, etc., or the application will be disqualified.**

Please limit essay to one typed page.

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

Applicant must have been a student in your class at one time. Please use a separate sheet of paper; be sure to include the required information listed on this page.

Do NOT include information such as GPA, grades, test scores, class rank, etc., or the application will be disqualified.

Your recommendation should address the applicant's character; what you believe are his/her greatest attributes; specific accomplishments; examples of educational, employment and/or community leadership; his/her potential for future personal achievement; and why you feel this student deserves a *Quest For Education* Scholarship.

Please limit recommendation to one typed page.

Teacher's Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Class In Which You Taught Applicant: _____ Year/Semester: _____

SPONSOR, COACH, OR EMPLOYER RECOMMENDATION

Sponsor = an individual who has directly and actively led an extra-curricular activity or organization in which the applicant has participated. If using a guidance counselor for this recommendation, counselor must elaborate on the **character** of the applicant, as grades are not a criterion. Please use a separate sheet of paper; be sure to include the required information listed on this page.

Do NOT include information such as GPA, grades, test scores, class rank, etc., or the application will be disqualified.

Your recommendation should address the applicant's character; what you believe are his/her greatest attributes; specific accomplishments; examples of educational, employment and/or community leadership; his/her potential for future personal achievement; and why you feel this student deserves a *Quest For Education* Scholarship.

Please limit recommendation to one typed page.

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Title: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

qfe student activity sheet (page 1 of 2)

Student: _____

High School: _____

Honors And Awards	Explanation	9	10	11	12
<i>Ex: Award of Journalism Achievement</i>	<i>Won at local journalism contest</i>				x

Extra-Curricular School Activities	Average Hours Weekly	Leadership Positions	Faculty Sponsor	9	10	11	12
<i>Ex: Yearbook</i>	<i>5 hrs wkly</i>	<i>Editor (12)</i>	<i>Mr. John Jackson</i>		x	x	x

If additional room is needed, please photocopy this page.

qfe student activity sheet (page 2 of 2)

Student: _____

High School: _____

Community Activities/ Volunteer Programs	Hours Weekly	Leadership Positions	Sponsor	9	10	11	12
<i>Ex: Church Choir</i>	<i>2 hrs wkly</i>	<i>Guitarist/Vocalist</i>	<i>Ms. Diane Davis</i>		x		x

Employer/Company	Average Hours Weekly	Positions/Responsibilities	Supervisor	9	10	11	12
<i>Ex: Kohl's</i>	<i>15 hrs wkly</i>	<i>Sales Associate (10-12) Customer Service (12)</i>	<i>Mr. Tony Tate</i>		x	x	x

If additional room is needed, please photocopy this page.

Why YOU should join Vantage Credit Union

AS YOU START EARNING MONEY and handling your own finances, you'll need to open a checking and/or savings account at a financial institution. So why should you choose Vantage Credit Union?

Eligibility for the **Quest For Education Scholarship** is just one of the many benefits you'll receive. You'll also enjoy the benefits of being a member-owner, which include better rates, lower fees, superior service, and a free *Not Your Mama's* checking account! What's that? The hippest account in town, designed specifically for our 18- to 25-year-old members! This unique account offers young members like you spending forecasts, merchant coupons, social media feeds and much more. It's all part of the Vantage Credit Union difference!

So start building a solid credit history and taking care of your own finances for a lot less than what you'd pay at a bank. Becoming a member of Vantage is easy. And you can bet we'll always keep your best financial interest in mind. After all, we didn't become one of the most successful credit unions in the United States by accident! Join Vantage Credit Union today!

To Become A Vantage Credit Union Member

1. Complete An Account Card.

2. Establish A General Share. Each member is required to establish a \$5 General Share, which represents your part ownership in the credit union. This share is insured, may earn dividends and is refundable if you ever close your account with Vantage Credit Union.

3. Begin Taking Advantage of these Convenient Services:*

- *Not Your Mama's Account*
- *Free online account management with bill pay*
- *Free Visa® Check Card*
- *Savings accounts*
- *Auto loans*
- *Visa® credit cards*
- *Certificates of Deposit*
- *Investment products of all types*
- *Discount theme park tickets*
- *And much more!*

For more information on Vantage Credit Union membership,
log on to www.vcu.com or call us at 314.298.0055 or 800.522.6009.

mailing checklist

Did you include your:

- Scholarship Form, including your Vantage Credit Union Account Number?
(You must have your own account!)
 - Personal Essay & signature?
 - Student Activity Sheets (both pages)?
 - What you need to do page with required signatures?
 - Teacher Recommendation?
 - Sponsor, Coach, or Employer Recommendation?
-

Paperclip and mail the above to:

Vantage Credit Union
Marketing Department
4020 Fee Fee Road
Bridgeton, MO 63044

Applications **MUST BE RECEIVED** no later than
Friday, December 2, 2011, to avoid disqualification!



314.298.0055 | 800.522.6009 | www.vcu.com