A sign lit up at night

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**Scholarship Program**

**Terms and Conditions**

LAWA is proud to have offered the LAWA Scholarship Program for almost 30 years. LAWA scholarships are awarded to qualified Latino(a) youth pursuing higher education. LAWA aims to close academic achievement gaps, improve high school graduation rates, and increase the number of students who pursue and complete post-secondary study. Scholarship Award recipients will be notified in May 2022.

**Purpose**:

* The scholarship money is intended **ONLY** for tuition
* LAWA Scholarships are given annually to eligible Latino(a) students accepted by accredited vocational schools, colleges or universities of their choice in the USA
* LAWA Scholarships are renewable for up to three consecutive academic years
* LAWA Scholarships are competitive and the selection criteria is based on students’ financial need, academic merit, and community involvement

**Eligibility and Requirements:**

**2022 High School Graduate:**

* Any student of Hispanic origin, defined as the heritage, nationality, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person’s parents or ancestors before arriving in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov/topics/population/about.html.)
* Graduating from a high school located in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell and Union counties in the state of North Carolina
* Accepted to any accredited vocational school, college or university in the USA
* Will attend as a full-time student for the entire academic year
* Maintained a 2.5 GPA or above

**2022 Currently enrolled in Post-Secondary Education**:

* Any student of Hispanic origin, defined as the heritage, nationality, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person’s parents or ancestors before arriving in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov/topics/population/about.html.)
* Permanent residence is in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell and Union in the state of North Carolina
* Currently enrolled in an accredited vocational school, college or university in the USA
* Attends as a full-time student
* Maintained a 3.0 GPA or above
* Has not been a recipient of LAWA Scholarship Award Monies before

**2022 Renewal Scholars:**

* Was awarded a LAWA Scholarship the previous year
* The LAWA Scholar who has maintained a 3.0 GPA or above
* Must be a sophomore, junior or senior attending an accredited vocational school, college, or university anywhere in the USA
* Attends as a full-time student for the entire academic year

**Essay Topic and Requirements:**

Must be typed, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced, not to exceed 2 pages explaining:

***For New and Currently Enrolled Applicants:***

1. Career aspirations
2. Personal interests, after-school work responsibilities, community involvement and volunteering
3. Academic achievements
4. Reasons for applying for the scholarship
5. Any obstacles overcome during school years

***For Renewal Applicants:***

1. Academic accomplishments during the academic year
2. Personal interests, after-school work and community involvement and volunteering
3. What the LAWA Scholarship means to you
4. Any obstacles that were overcome during the year(s) in college (if applicable)

**Review and Selection Process:**

1. The LAWA Scholarship Review Committee consists of faculty from area colleges and universities, other educators, and former LAWA Scholars.
2. After the LAWA office review of applications meeting stated requirements, the Review Committee assesses submitted essays, letters of recommendation, and transcripts.
3. The Committee conducts “blind reviews” of every application without knowledge of students’ names or personal information. Multiple reviewers assess each application.
4. Scholarship selection is not based on religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, legal status, or any other category, protected by federal, state, or local law.
5. It is the applicant’s responsibility to submit a completed application along with all the supporting documentation, which must be received on or before the deadline specified. LAWA and the Scholarship Review Committee accept no responsibility for incomplete applications, applications not in proper form, lost applications, or any other submission in exception to the instructions.
6. LAWA and its employees, officers, directors, affiliates, agents, and representatives are not responsible for any typographical or other errors in the offer or administration of the scholarship, including but not limited to, errors in any printing or posting of these terms and conditions, or the selection and announcement of any winner.
7. LAWA is not responsible for late, lost, misdirected, or unintelligible entries, including entries not received because of interrupted or unavailable network services, failed communications networks or equipment, computer hardware or software, or other errors or malfunctions, whether human, mechanical or electronic.
8. Should LAWA, in its sole discretion, determine that the LAWA Scholarship Program selection process has been compromised by virus, bugs, tampering, hackers or other causes beyond its control, LAWA reserves the right to void suspect entries and/or terminate such selection process and chose the awardees in a fair and reasonable manner from among all eligible entries submitted prior to the deadline.
9. The final decision of the scholarship recipient is made by the Executive Director through the ranking process provided and the final numbers of the Reviewing Committee.

**Awards**:

* Number of recipients is contingent on monies available for awards
* The recipients will be notified in May 2022
* The winners may be posted to the LAWA website and used in LAWA promotional materials
* The Scholarship has no cash value
* Scholarships that are awarded to the recipients may only be used to assist with the payment of their tuition in an eligible program and are not redeemable in cash
* Any Scholarship funds that are awarded may not be used for the purchase of books, any fees that may be applicable to their degree program, and outside materials (computers, internet service etc.)

**Maintaining Eligibility:**

* Maintain and adhere to the GPA standard policy
* Adhere to the policy as stated on pages 1 and 2 under “**Eligibility and Requirements**”
* Should a Scholarship recipient withdraw or be dismissed prior to disbursement of all

Scholarship funds awarded to him or her, the balance of the tuition funds awarded, but not disbursed, will be terminated and will not be available to the student for future courses

* If a Scholarship recipient withdraws from a course or receives a non-passing grade, the cost to retake the course will not be discounted by the LAWA Scholarship Program