

Proposal to reinstate WFCA Scholarships

The removal of WFCA scholarships was a damaging act for students. As we are seeing more and more often in current times, many students and their families cannot afford the rocketing tuition prices of colleges across the nation. For many, the choice is no longer which school do I want to attend, but instead, which school can I reasonably afford to attend. Those who do go on to further education, many times incur a large amount of debt from student loans and other related costs. While our scholarships may not amount to enough to defeat this debt, every dollar counts.

1. While it is noble to want to give out an award named after such a supporter of our activity, it is not as beneficial to students. Students may receive our scholarship late enough in the year to not be able to include it on college applications, but they can include the honor on job applications. Employers are more likely to pay attention to a resume that lists a scholarship rather than a student of the year award named after a person they know nothing about. So why not do both? Why not present both scholarships and a student of the year, or split the difference and award four scholarships and two students of the year awards for example. The monies saved by eliminating two scholarships will be directed to future travel grant funds. This process can be trialed for one year to see if financial balance is achieved.

2. When given the choice, it is very doubtful students would choose an option that does not provide them with a monetary prize. With the rising costs of attending college, even a small scholarship such as the one provided by WFCA can help alleviate the burden for students and families. Having that scholarship money could be the difference between being able to afford a textbook or fund a meal plan at school. The Chaldean [kal-de-uhn] Community Foundation of Sterling Heights, Michigan provides scholarships to students. On their website, they provide testimony from a group of those students, speaking of their gratitude. Some of the statements taken include:

“This scholarship means a lot to me, and it feels like a reward for all the hard work I have done throughout high school.”

“Not only is tuition expensive, but books, transportation, and other necessities add on to it. My entire family will not be burdened with these funds for education, and we are very grateful for that!”

Reinstate and Amend

“4. SCHOLARSHIP. Any senior on a WFCA affiliated forensic team is eligible to apply for a scholarship. The Awards Committee will select scholarship recipients. Scholarship forms must be submitted to the Past-President-~~postmarked~~ no later than February 15. The scholarships will be announced and presented at the State Tournament. All students who apply for a WFCA scholarship, will also be considered for a Ron Steinhorst Student of the Year Award. Students who apply may receive only a scholarship or Ron

Steinhorst Student of the Year Award, but not both. Students shall be given the option to denote on application whether they wish to be considered for only one of the awards or both. The criteria for selection will be as follows: a. Acceptable grade point average; b. Extracurricular speech/drama participation, especially in WFCA sponsored events; c. Community/school service d. Completion of the scholarship application”