



*Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education*

## **Heart of FIRE Scholarship for Graduating Seniors**

Each year, the FIRE Foundation honors students who have demonstrated a *Heart of FIRE* through their support of students with special needs as friends and classmates.

More than two decades since our founding, it is clear that inclusive education positively impacts not only the lives of young men and women with special needs, but the lives of their peers as well. We consistently hear about past students who are studying to become special education teachers or therapists. Some are pursuing career paths in business or other fields and plan to work to create more inclusive employment opportunities. Parents frequently share stories about the impact inclusive education has had on the lives of their sons and daughters as they journey into their adult lives.

The FIRE Board of Directors is pleased to award the *Heart of FIRE* Scholarship to one or more graduating seniors at FIRE partner high schools (St. Michael the Archangel/Pius). As you enter college and adult life, the Board wishes to recognize your commitment to inclusive Catholic education with a scholarship up to \$1,500.

It is our hope that recipients of the scholarship will someday return to their parish and diocesan schools and communities as parishioners, teachers, therapists, administrators, religious or parents continuing to share their *Hearts of FIRE* and keeping our mission burning bright.

### ***Scholarship Guidelines***

1. Award recipients will be determined by a FIRE Board Committee.
2. High school senior applicants will submit scholarship entries to the FIRE Office by **Monday, March 26, 2018**. Email submissions to [fire@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:fire@diocesekcsj.org) with name, current school, phone number and address, the college(s)\* you are considering attending and intended field of study (if known). Please attach your entry documents in Word or PDF format. (**No Google docs please.**) You can also mail entries to FIRE, 20 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64105.
3. Scholarship Entries (Both essay and recommendation are required.)
  - ✓ Submit a typed **essay** (not to exceed 500 words) describing / demonstrating the impact that peer mentorship and/or inclusive education have made on your life and how your experiences will impact the lives of others as well as your future decisions and direction. The review committee will evaluate sincerity, content of message, creativity and polish of final product.
  - ✓ A **recommendation** completed by a teacher, administrator, coach or other adult (no immediate family) must be submitted for entry to be considered. (*See page 2 for additional details.*)
4. Scholarship winners will be notified on a date selected by your school administration. Principals will be notified of award recipient(s) by April 18, 2019.
5. Winning entry(ies) will receive an award of up to \$1,500 for tuition/fees at the college or university in which he/she is enrolled. Scholarship winner(s) must notify the FIRE Office by June 15, 2019 with information about where to send funds.
6. FIRE reserves the right to post and publish entries in the Foundation's publications, on its website and social media.

*\*Does not need to be a Catholic college or university.*



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## **RECOMMENDATION for Heart of FIRE Scholarship *for Graduating Seniors***

Each year, the FIRE Foundation honors students who have demonstrated a *Heart of FIRE* through their support of students with special needs as friends and classmates. The FIRE Foundation Board is seeking input from an adult who knows each applicant and has observed the student's commitment to being inclusive at school, in their parish and community.

- ✓ **DEADLINE.** Recommendations are due on **Monday, March 25, 2019.**
- ✓ **SUBMISSION.** You may use this form and mail recommendations to FIRE, 20 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64105 or you may email recommendations to [fire@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:fire@diocesekcsj.org). If you're emailing, you can complete/scan/attach this form OR simply provide the requested information in the text of your email.
- ✓ **RECOMMENDATIONS ARE REQUIRED.** Please follow through and complete your recommendation on or before the deadline so your student's entry will be considered for a college scholarship award of up to \$1,500.
- ✓ **MULTIPLE RECOMMENDATIONS.** It is acceptable for one individual to submit recommendations for more than one student.

Name of student you are recommending \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship to this student \_\_\_\_\_  
*(teacher, principal, neighbor, coach, family friend, etc.)*

Years you have known him/her \_\_\_\_\_ Your phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us how this student demonstrates his/her support of peers with special needs as friends and classmates. Try to cite specific examples that illustrate his/her Heart of FIRE. Please try to limit your response to 350 words or less, if possible.