



Washington State School Retirees' Association

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Important High School Scholarship Information for the Year 2024

TO: Washington State High School Principals/Counselors/Career Center Coordinators

FROM: Ronald Crawford, President
Washington State School Retirees' Association

DATE: November 27, 2024

RE: Eight WSSR-Foundation Scholarships – a one-time scholarship of \$3,000 each
Eight WSSR-Foundation Scholarships – a one-time scholarship of \$2,000 each
Sixteen Robert J. Handy Scholarships - \$900 each redeemable for up to four years
Two Gene Forrester Memorial Scholarships - \$2,000 each

The Washington State School Retirees' Association (WSSRA) invites senior students who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher to apply for the above scholarships. These awards are given to students who plan a career in the field of education.

Eight \$3,000 WSSR – Foundation Scholarships, eight \$2,000 WSSR – Foundation Scholarships, and sixteen Robert J. Handy Scholarships (\$900 per year redeemable for four years) will be awarded to students whose degree would be in one of these areas: teacher, counselor, speech therapist, occupational therapist, social worker, or psychologist.

In addition, two Gene Forrester Memorial Scholarships will be awarded to students who will major in Agricultural Education at Washington State University.

WSSRA collects applications and refers them to reading committees that score applications and select the recipients. Applicants will be notified by May 17, 2024, if they have been chosen. Please encourage your outstanding students who are committed to a career in the field of education to apply.

The scholarship application is available online on our website www.wssra.org under the Foundation/Scholarships tab. It is also posted at www.washboard.org.

For an application to be considered it must be submitted online by **March 1, 2024**.

High School Scholarship Information for Presenters

Washington State School Retirees' Foundation Scholarship

Each year the Washington State School Retirees' Association (WSSRA) selects sixteen outstanding high school seniors interested in an education career to receive a WSSR-Foundation Scholarship. Eight of these recipients will be awarded \$3,000 scholarships, and eight will be awarded \$2,000 scholarships. Their career goal should be in one of these areas: teacher, counselor, speech therapist, occupational therapist, social worker, or psychologist.

This scholarship was established by the Washington State School Retirees' Foundation in 1993.

The Robert J. Handy Scholarship

The PEMCO Foundation established the Robert J. Handy Scholarship program in memory of Robert J. Handy, the founder of the Washington State Teachers' Credit Union, which was later renamed and expanded to PEMCO. These scholarship awards are in the amount of \$900 per year, renewable for a total of four years if grades, citizenship, and self-reliance are maintained at acceptable levels.

Through the generosity of the PEMCO Foundation, each year the Washington State School Retirees' Association selects sixteen outstanding high school seniors, each of whom expresses a commitment to enter the teaching profession, to receive this scholarship.

The Gene Forrester Memorial Scholarship

The Gene Forrester Memorial Scholarship was established in 2020 to honor H. Eugene (Gene) Forrester. Gene was a life-long educator who began his career in 1951 as a vocational agricultural teacher at Ellensburg High School. Gene was named Agricultural Teacher of the Year in 1968 and was one of only 25 educators from across the nation awarded an honorary American Farmers degree from FFA in 1969. In 1972 Gene left the classroom to join OSPI as an agricultural education program supervisor. In 1982 he was promoted to state director of agricultural education, a position that included responsibility for administering the federal Carl Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. After retiring from OSPI in 1991, Gene became active in WSSRA and served in many leadership positions, including president in 2008-2009. In 2009 he joined the WSSRA board in his capacity as association parliamentarian. In addition, Gene served on the WSSRA Legislative Committee, and was active in his local Thurston County School Retirees Association Unit 28. Gene passed away December 18, 2020.

The WSSRA Scholarship Committee conducts the search and review process and makes this one-time, \$2000 Scholarship available to two students who will graduate from high schools in Washington State, and who will major in Agricultural Education at Washington State University.