



Prairie State Bank & Trust

SCHOLARSHIP

# 2024 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

1001 SOUTH DURKIN DRIVE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704  
1-800-597-2977 SCHOLARSHIP@PSBANK.NET  
WWW.PSBANK.NET

## WHO WE ARE

Prairie State Bank & Trust is a community bank with over \$800 million in total assets, 140 employees and 18 bank locations throughout central Illinois.

Prairie State Bank & Trust offers competitive bank products and services to a variety of customers including individuals, small businesses, farms and units of government. Due to our location in central Illinois, agriculture loans and farm customers make up a large portion of our business base. Lending, crop insurance and bank training expand the services typically expected of a community bank.

We intend to differentiate ourselves through exceptional service, innovative ideas and giving back to the communities we serve.

Our Focus

**assist in creating the future  
leaders of our communities**



## PURPOSE

Prairie State Bank & Trust is committed to giving back within the communities we serve. Our hope is to aid in the betterment and continued education of those students in our footprint who have worked hard to achieve their academic goals and might be struggling to finance their education.

Our scholarship program has been established to help those students from underrepresented or marginalized groups who are pursuing a degree in accounting, business, finance or related field. It is our hope that we can continue to bring them back to the workforce as strong, educated and diverse individuals.

Our future is within our communities and the purpose of this scholarship is to continue to advance members of our community.

# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION PACKET

## 2024-2025 School Year Scholarships

### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Friday, March 29th, 2024 by 11:59 PM Central

### SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED:

Up to 10-\$1,000 Scholarships Awarded on Friday, April 26th, 2024

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Eligible candidates must meet the basic requirements and complete the scholarship application in its entirety. Additional information may be attached.

In order to be eligible for this scholarship, a student

- Must be a member of an underrepresented or marginalized group (including but not limited to underrepresented racial populations, women, LGBTQUI, low income, individuals with disabilities, etc.)
- Must have a permanent address in one of the following counties in Illinois:
  - Champaign, Coles, Fulton, Macon, Macoupin, McLean, Montgomery, Morgan, or Sangamon
- Must be pursuing an undergraduate degree in accounting, business, finance or related field with full-time enrollment.
- Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4 point scale or the equivalent of a "B" average.
- Must have successfully completed two courses offered as a community service by Prairie State Bank & Trust. These are titled "Introduction to Banking for Young Adults" and "How to Fund Your Future". Links to these courses can be obtained by contacting [scholarship@psbank.net](mailto:scholarship@psbank.net).
- Immediate family members of current Prairie State Bank & Trust or American Central Financial Group employees are not eligible for this scholarship.

# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION PACKET

2024-2025 School Year Scholarships

## APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications are available on our website, [www.psbank.net](http://www.psbank.net), under the "About Us"- "Community" section. Please submit your application packet either electronically to [scholarship@psbank.net](mailto:scholarship@psbank.net) or by mail to Scholarship, Prairie State Bank & Trust, 1001 South Durkin Drive, Springfield, IL 62704.

The Application Packet must include:

- A completed Prairie State Bank & Trust Scholarship Application. Please type or clearly print your responses. The application must be completed in its entirety and submitted as above no later than Friday, March 29th, 2024.
- Application includes a writing sample of no more than 500 words in response to one of the prompts provided in the application.
- Application includes a video introduction of yourself including why you are interested in a scholarship with PSB&T, why you are deserving of the scholarship and how you will use your education to benefit your community. Limited to a 2-minute video.
- A current official transcript provided by your high school. A student copy or unofficial transcript will NOT be accepted.
- A copy of your FAFSA/Student Aid Report including answers to all questions. Copy of the cover page stating the EFC or expected family contribution is required.
- Two letters of recommendation, forms are available with the application packet. One should be an academic reference describing your academic achievements. The second should be written by a non-relative who can describe your extracurricular activities which may include school activities, volunteer or community service or professional performance. This may be submitted by a coach, church advisor, volunteer coordinator, employer or teacher.

## SELECTION PROCESS:

A maximum of ten (10) students will be selected to receive scholarships of \$1000 each year. This education stipend is to be utilized towards educational expenses including tuition, fees, books or campus housing.



# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION PACKET

2024-2025 School Year Scholarships

## SELECTION PROCESS CONTINUED:

All students who have demonstrated leadership within their academic and/or community activities are encouraged to apply. You must reside (permanent address) within the geographic area served by Prairie State Bank & Trust as previously defined. PSB&T has established this scholarship program to assist students from underrepresented populations and those who demonstrate financial need attend college.

Successful candidates will be required to submit evidence of full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university, including community college, at the time the award is made. This scholarship is automatically terminated should the student fail to enroll as a full-time college student in the award year.

## RENEWAL OPTION:

Successful applicants who have been awarded a scholarship may be eligible for annual renewal based upon a request by the student and a review by the PSB&T scholarship committee. The following conditions must be met in order to be eligible but do not guarantee renewal. Failure to meet these criteria will disqualify a student from consideration for renewal. Renewal is not automatic and must be requested in writing by the student.

- Continued full-time enrollment at a 2 or 4 year accredited institution
- Continued declaration of an accounting, business, finance or related degree
- Cumulative college GPA of 3.0 or better
- Continued legal residence in one of the counties served by PSB&T

## DOCUMENTS INCLUDED IN THIS PACKET:

- Application
- Letter of Recommendation Forms

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

If you have questions about the scholarship application form or process, please contact us at 1-800-597-2977 or by email at [scholarship@psbank.net](mailto:scholarship@psbank.net).



# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:			
Date of birth:	Phone:	Email:	
Permanent address:			
City:	State:	ZIP Code:	
Ethnicity (Optional):	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Black
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 or more races
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

## EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Name of High School:			
High School Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP Code:	
Cumulative GPA:		Expected Graduation Date:	
Honors and Awards (include dates received):			
School Athletics, Clubs, Organizations (include number of years involved and any office or leadership role held):			



# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Community Involvement & Activities Outside of School:

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Names of Colleges/Universities Applied to; indicate if accepted & **attending**:


Degree or Major:

**EMPLOYMENT**  
INCLUDE PART-TIME AND SUMMER EMPLOYMENT BEGINNING WITH THE CURRENT OR MOST RECENT

Employer:	Supervisor:
Telephone #:	Dates Employed:

Responsibilities:

Employer:	Supervisor:
Telephone #:	Dates Employed:

Responsibilities:

Employer:	Supervisor:
Telephone #:	Dates Employed:



# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Responsibilities:

Employer: Supervisor:

Telephone #: Dates Employed:

Responsibilities:

Do you plan to work while attending school?  Yes  No

### ESSAY PROMPTS

Please select one essay prompt and submit a maximum of 500 words in response.

- Explain how your planned degree will be beneficial in positively impacting our community.
- Describe how you will use your education to reduce poverty in our community.
- Explain how you will be funding your college education and the impact the receipt of this scholarship could have on your plan.
- State your plans for starting your college career including how and why you have chosen your field of study.

### LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please provide the names of the two individuals who will be submitting letters of recommendation on your behalf:

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# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## CERTIFICATION AND RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

I certify that the information I have provided is accurate, complete and true. I authorize release of this information to Prairie State Bank & Trust (PSB&T) for the purposes of confirming this application. I give permission to the PSB&T Scholarship Committee to copy my application packet for purposes of evaluation and consideration for scholarship award. If I am selected to receive a scholarship, I authorize PSB&T to use my name and likeness in any and all marketing, public relations or publicity activities to promote the PSB&T Scholarship Program.

Applicant's Signature:	Date:
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:

Return completed application, letters of recommendation, essay, transcript, and copy of FAFSA/Student aid report to:

Prairie State Bank & Trust  
c/o Scholarship Committee  
1001 South Durkin Drive  
Springfield, IL 62704

Or email full submission packet with signatures to [scholarship@psbank.net](mailto:scholarship@psbank.net).

Electronic submission of video introduction can be sent to [scholarship@psbank.net](mailto:scholarship@psbank.net). Please ensure you are clearly identifying your name and address within the email body in order to ensure it is placed with completed application.



# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECOMMENDATION FORM

Thank you for taking the time to complete this brief statement regarding a candidate for the Prairie State Bank & Trust (PSB&T) Scholarship. PSB&T has established this scholarship to assist those from underrepresented populations in attending college. This form must be completed in its entirety to highlight the candidate's academic and community achievements. Additional information may be attached. The scholarship committee may wish to contact you regarding the candidate. Please provide a daytime phone number and email where we can easily contact you.

**DEADLINE: MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

Candidate's Name:    First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

### INSTRUCTIONS TO RECOMMENDER

Please complete the bottom of this form and state below or on a separate sheet of paper your opinion of the Applicant's character and potential for success in post-secondary education and chosen career, including why you believe the Applicant deserves this scholarship. Include in your narrative, how long and in what capacity you have known this candidate. If you use a separate sheet of paper, please do not forget to submit this form. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

[Large empty box for recommender's narrative]

Please type or print the following information:

Name:	Date:
Signature:	Position:
Institution/Organization:	
Address:	

Please mail completed form and any additional pages to:  
Prairie State Bank & Trust c/o Scholarship Committee  
1001 South Durkin Drive, Springfield, IL 62704  
[scholarship@psbank.net](mailto:scholarship@psbank.net)