Building a Future

Scholarship

Application Packet

Provided by the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare
and the Center for Mental Health Research and Innovation
For ten years, the Building A Future Scholarship has helped over 50 Kansas students with their educational goals – many who thought they would never return to school. Students like Mark Brenneman from Topeka:

“I had doubts about whether I could make the grade in college,” Mark said, “but having people with enough faith in me to invest money in me was really a big help. I've come a long way since those first timid days at school. I owe a lot of my success to the scholarship.”

Students’ goals have been wide-ranging and included seeking or receiving degrees–associate, bachelor & masters – or certification in their chosen areas. Some of the career areas that award recipients have pursued include: nursing, social work, auto repair, legal studies, psychology, computer technology, health care administration, English and creative arts.

Past recipients have also attended a variety of Kansas institutions as well as those outside the state. Although the award is funded through the University Of Kansas School Of Social Welfare/Center for Mental Health Research and Innovation, scholarships are available for ANY accredited college or trade school in the United States. In addition to KU, students have attended Washburn University, Wichita State University, Fort Hays State, Kansas City Kansas and Johnson County Community Colleges, Friends University, Kansas City Area Technical School, Ashford University, Cowley County, Fort Scott and Independence Community Colleges.

Karen Schneller, a 2005 graduate of the KU Consumers as Providers (CAP) program, submitted the winning name for the Building a Future Scholarship. It was one that held personal meaning for her. “Being able to participate in a program like CAP,” said Karen, “gave me a foundation for my own future.”
Building a Future Scholarship

Overview

Scholarship Application

Applications must be completed in their entirety; incomplete applications will NOT be considered. A resume will not be accepted in lieu of a completed application, but may be attached to provide more detail about your job duties or activities. We are not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

Scholarship Criteria

Each application is individually scored. Sections of the application are also weighted in these categories:

- Narrative Essay (80%)
- References (10%)
- Overall application (10%)

Applications are scored according to the following criteria:

- Accurate completion of all application sections.
- Quality of application including content, clarity, & neatness.
- Previous educational experiences.

Narrative Essay

The essay is the main component (80% of your overall score) taken into consideration in determining the scholarship recipients. The essay should be done in your own words. Use the following as section headings and provide complete answers, either in the space provided on page 8 or as a separate document (not to exceed 3-5 pages). Applications may be disqualified if not in one of these formats.

Reference Forms

References account for 10% of the overall score. Each applicant must include three references with their application. At least two of these must be professional (from employers, teachers, community service, volunteer activities; your mental health providers are NOT considered professional references). One reference may be a personal one (friend, peer, neighbor, mental health provider; family members may NOT be used). The required forms are provided in the application packet. Please follow these instructions to have the references completed:

- Add your name to the top of the forms & check if this reference is a professional or a personal one;
- Give each reference a form and a blank envelope;
- Ask references to complete the form, place in an envelope, seal & sign their name over the seal, then return to you for submission with your application packet.
Building a Future Scholarship

Overview continued

Selection Committee

All applications are reviewed and screened by a panel selected by KU’s School of Social Welfare, including members with lived experience of recovery. The committee reserves the right to distribute awards as it sees fit based on the applications received. All decisions made by the panel are final. Each application will be handled with the utmost confidentiality. Materials submitted will not be returned to the applicant.
Building a Future Scholarship

Application Checklist

Please ATTACH THIS CHECKLIST to the cover of the application packet. Please note that incomplete applications will NOT be accepted.

Your name (please print): _____________________________________  Date: __________

Please review the following criteria and initial each one that is true for you:

_____ I am 18 years of age or older

_____ I self-identify as someone who currently or formerly received CSS services from a KS community mental health center

_____ I am a Kansas resident

_____ I am a U.S. citizen or am actively working toward naturalization

_____ I plan to attend school in the United States

Before sending your application materials, please initial that each section has been included in your packet:

_____ Application checklist

_____ Application form

_____ Personal Essay (please be sure you have followed instructions provided)

_____ Educational and Career Goal Plan

_____ Three recommendations (must be in a sealed envelope & signed over the seal by the reference)

Complete application material should be sent to (choose one form):

**Mail:**

Center for Mental Health Research and Innovation  
University of Kansas  
School of Social Welfare  
Room 215  
1315 Wakarusa Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66049

**Fax:**  
(785) 830.8026

**Email:**  
pathways@ku.edu
**Building a Future Scholarship**

*Application Checklist continued*

**Please note**

All applications submissions should include only the above requested materials. Any additional information or materials (except a resume) will be destroyed and will not be submitted to the scholarship committee. Applications are held in the strictest confidence. Application materials submitted will not be returned to the applicant.

The University of Kansas School of Social Welfare does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, color national origin, Veteran's status or disability.

Applicants must meet all of the eligibility requirements in order to be considered. Applications that are not complete will not be considered.

**Contact Information**

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<th>Legal First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Preferred Name</th>
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<th>City</th>
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<th>Permanent Address (if different from current address)</th>
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Email Address
Building a Future Scholarship

Academic Information

Are you in school now? ___ Yes ___ No
If yes, where are you attending? _______________ School ID _______________
If you are not in school now, where do you plan to attend? _______________
If you are a past recipient of the Building a Future Scholarship, what is your current GPA? ____
What is your desired educational or career goal?
___ Trade or Vocational School Certificate ___ Associate Degree ___ Bachelor Degree ___ Graduate Degree

List – in chronological order – ALL educational experiences you have had, even if your coursework or degree was not completed (please begin with your most recent experience and work backwards). If needed, continue this list on a separate page.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Educational Institution</th>
<th>Dates Attended</th>
<th>Degree Received</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Date Awarded</th>
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Employment and Volunteer Experience

Please list ALL employment &/or volunteer experiences. A resume cannot be substituted for this information, but may be included to show job tasks or descriptions. Even if including a resume, please complete this form. If you need to use extra paper or write on the back, you may do so.

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<tr>
<th>Agency/Company</th>
<th>Full-time (FT)</th>
<th>Part-time (PT)</th>
<th>Volunteer (V)</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Dates of Employment or Volunteer Activity</th>
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Training and Leadership Activities

Describe your involvement with leadership and advocacy. What, if any, experience do you have? Please note that it does not have to be relevant to the mental health field.
Building a Future Scholarship

Narrative Essay, Page 1

The essay is the main component (80% of your overall score) taken into consideration in determining the scholarship recipients. The essay should be done in your own words. Provide complete answers to the following, either in the space provided or as a separate document (not to exceed 3-5 pages). Applications may be disqualified if not in one of these formats.

Question #1
What are your overall goals for school and career. Why is this important to you?

Question #2
What are your academic aspirations? What career would you like to pursue?

Question #3
What school have you chosen to attend? Why did you choose this specific school? You can address both practical consideration (location, tuition) and academic considerations (major, school reputation, etc.)
Building a Future Scholarship
Narrative Essay Continued

**Question #4**
What are the steps you have already taken to prepare for pursuing your education goals?

**Question #5**
What previous and/or current work, educational, or personal life experiences will help you meet your goals? How did these experiences help you discover inner strengths and resources you possess?

**Question #6**
How do you hope that this academic experience will enhance your well-being and fit into your personal journey of recovery? How will attending college help you?
Building a Future Scholarship

Applicant Reference Form (1 of 3)

The individual named below is applying for the Building a Future Scholarship offered through the University Of Kansas School of Social Welfare/Center for Mental Health Research and Innovation. Upon completing this form, please return it to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal. Applicants are required to include your reference in their application packets.

Applicant Name (please print) ________________________________________________________________________________________

Reference Name (please print) ________________________________________________________________________________________

_____ I am a professional reference (employer, teacher, community service or volunteer activities)

_____ I am a personal reference (friend, peer, neighbor, health provider; family members may NOT be used)

In what capacity do you know the applicant? How long have you known the applicant?

To the best of your ability, please share about the applicant’s strengths and qualities that make them a good candidate to receive the scholarship. If you have information about any of the following, you can comment on that: academic dedication; areas of strength; productivity; dependability or leadership.

Do you have anything further that you would like to share about this applicant?

Please feel free to attach a supporting letter or other materials to this reference, although this is not required. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at (785) 864-2298 or via e-mail at pathways@ku.edu.

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___ __________________________
Signature Date

Reference 1 of 3
Building a Future Scholarship

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_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________
Signature Date

Reference 2 of 3
Building a Future Scholarship

Applicant Reference Form (1 of 3)

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Signature ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Reference 1 of 3