

## **The Mae Ciechanski Scholarship Fund**

Each winter, the Mae Ciechanski Scholarship Fund Committee, on behalf of the City of Soldotna, conducts an annual scholarship process to determine who will receive scholarships from the Mae Ciechanski Scholarship Fund. The City of Soldotna manages a scholarship endowment which was funded through the vision and generosity of life-long resident Mae Ciechanski. The amount available this year for scholarship awards is approximately \$42,755.40. Mae Ciechanski, a lifelong Alaskan and homesteader, had a strong belief that her estate should be used to benefit her community for future generations, specifically students pursuing an education. According to her longtime attorney and friend Dale Dolifka, Mae believed that education was the best way to pull someone up by their bootstraps. However, Mae was clear that the scholarships from her endowment were not just intended for the class valedictorians; rather, she wanted to be able to help all students looking to improve their lives by pursuing a secondary education, including technical education or trade schools. In honor of Mae Ciechanski's wishes, the endowment will again award scholarships to students with a variety of goals and ambitions.

The Mae Ciechanski Scholarship Fund Committee awards scholarships based on the qualifications of each applicant. There are several types of scholarship awards available for students applying for a Mae Ciechanski Scholarship:

1. Recipients pursuing a four year post secondary education will receive an \$8,000.00 scholarship (\$2,000.00/annually for four years).
2. Recipients pursuing a two year education in a vocational/technical school will receive an \$8,000.00 scholarship (\$4,000.00/annually for two years).
3. Recipients may receive a one time \$1,000.00 scholarship toward their post-secondary education, technical education or trade school certificate.

### **Eligibility Criteria for a Mae Ciechanski Scholarship:**

A Mae Ciechanski Scholarship is available to high school seniors, undergraduate students, graduate students and adults whose legal residence is in Alaska and meet the criteria outlined below. The purpose of each award is to cover tuition, fees, room and board, and books.

1. Applicants must be one of the following:
  - A. A high school senior attending high school in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District;
  - B. An under-graduate or graduate college student who has graduated from a Kenai Peninsula high school; or
  - C. A resident of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

2. Applicants must be pursuing a post-secondary education at an accredited college, university or an appropriate vocational/technical school of choice beginning no later than the fall semester of 2017.

3. The scholarship amount will not exceed the cost of registration, books and associated costs within the school year and must be fully spent prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August of the following year. For multi year scholarships, students must provide the scholarship committee with proof of enrollment and a yearly transcript before the next installment will be paid.

4. Applicants pursuing a four year post secondary education must have minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 in their respective high school or college transcript.

5. Applicants pursuing an education in vocational/technical school must have minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in their respective high school or college transcript.

**Applications are available at the following places:**

1. Online at [www.soldotna.org/scholarships](http://www.soldotna.org/scholarships) ;
2. Soldotna City Hall (177 Birch, Soldotna, AK 99669);
3. KPBSD students may find an application on the OneStop Portal; or
4. Contact your high school counselor.

**Applications must be turned into Soldotna City Hall, located at 177 Birch, Soldotna, Alaska, 99669, by March 31, 2017, by 5:00 p.m. or applications which are mailed must be postmarked by March 31, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.**

The Scholarship Committee at its sole and absolute discretion will score applications based on the qualifications of each applicant. Scholarship recipients will be notified of their award at their respective high schools awards ceremony or by mail. The decision of the committee is final and there are no appeals. Funds will be sent directly to the recipient's school of choice upon receipt of proof of enrollment by the Scholarship Committee. **It is the student's responsibility to contact the committee to secure the awarded funds.** In the event there are not an adequate number of qualified applicants, the committee may choose to prorate remaining scholarship funds among the qualified recipients, thereby increasing the amount of the scholarship award.

The Mae Ciechanski Scholarship Fund Committee consists of the following individuals:

Cari Friendshuh- Peninsula Plumbing and Heating

Jeffrey Dolifka-Attorney

Sean Kelley-Attorney

Michael Burton- Financial Advisor

LaDawn Druce-Retired Educator

If you have any questions please email the committee at [scholarships@soldotna.org](mailto:scholarships@soldotna.org)

**Each Applicant shall submit the following documents in order:**

1. **Cover Page**

The cover page shall include the applicants name, home mailing address, phone number(s), email address, parent(s)/guardian(s) name, parent(s)/guardian(s) address, parent(s)/guardian(s) phone number (s), their high school's name, the college or school they desire to attend, the date the semester begins, intended major, and a photo (optional).

2. **Resume**

The resume shall be in a traditional format and shall include the following:

- A. Header: Applicants name, home mailing address, phone number(s), email address.
- B. Work Experience
- C. Community service/Volunteer work
- D. Extra-curricular Activities
- E. Awards/Honors/Recognitions

3. **Personal Essay**

The personal essay shall not exceed 500 words, in size 12 font, double spaced. Applicants shall answer the following question:

“ What are your career and personal goals and why have you chosen these goals?”

4. **Letters of Recommendation**

Each applicant shall submit a minimum of two letters of recommendation (maximum of three letters of recommendation) from individuals who are not related to the applicant.

5. **A Certified Transcript**

An official transcript of the most recent education completed. Example: High school, College, etc.