



MSSM FOUNDATION “FRIENDSHIP” SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

For the Merced Union High School District (Graduating Seniors)

The MSSM Foundation is named in memory of Melanie, Stanley, Stuart, and Michelle McFadden-Willis. The Non –Profit Foundation is involved in several projects throughout Merced County that directly benefit the children and families of Merced, and is maintained through public support and overseen by their mother, Christine McFadden, DVM.

If there is one thing that stands out about my children, it was the tremendous number of friendships they shared. Many of these friendships started in pre-school and carried through to high school, where the circle widened. The scholarships offered here embody everything my children had positive about them, and are meant to reach out to as many young people from a diverse variety of backgrounds and interests as possible, throughout time. In this way my children can continue to serve the world and to let their light, their good hearts, shine forth forever. Thank you for applying for one of their Friendship Scholarships.

The Friendship Scholarship:

1. One or more scholarships of \$4,000 will be awarded each year to seniors of the graduating class from any Merced Union High School District.
2. The scholarships are not dependant upon grades / GPA.
3. The scholarships are not dependant upon financial need.
4. They are not dependant upon gender, race, or religion, or family background.
5. **The “heart” of the Friendship scholarship application** would be based on two or three (optional) character references required. At least one letter of reference needs to be from a personal friend, or peer, describing what your friendship has meant to them, and what they foresee you, their friend, doing for others, for the world, in the future. This letter does not have to be especially literate, but might include an anecdotal story so we can “see” the friend/ friendship. All letters submitted by a friend must be signed with current address and phone number for verification, if necessary.
6. Leadership qualities and compassion are important. They may be demonstrated in many ways – being a class officer, joining clubs, or a sports star does not in and of itself demonstrate FRIENDSHIP qualifications. I would encourage any interested student to apply.
7. These scholarships will be awarded only to students accepted to and attending a four-year undergraduate college or university, recognized and accredited by the Board of American Colleges and Universities.
8. Personal interviews may be given, at the MSSM Boards’ discretion.
9. Once awarded, the \$4,000 scholarship is automatically renewable for a total of four (4) years of college, if the following requirements are met:
 - a. Submission of college transcript showing maintenance of a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
 - b. Must carry a full-time class load / schedule of 12 or more units per quarter/semester.

- c. This is requested simply to demonstrate dedication, sincerity, and progress in the education of the recipients.
 - d. If for some reason a recipient does not fulfill these requirements, a one-time opportunity to plead their cause before the MSSM Friendship Scholarship Board may be made to allow for extenuating circumstances, and possibly continue receiving the scholarship.
 - e. Any scholarship that is dropped or no longer being awarded will be made available to the next high school year's graduating class, so that at all times all monies set aside for these scholarships shall be awarded. (For example, if one person drops out, then that scholarship may be available for the next year's graduating class).
10. Should you be eligible to receive another scholarship, such as a Pell Grant, which would conflict with and reduce the monies received from that scholarship, then the Friendship Scholarship will be awarded to someone else.
11. Deadlines:
- 1. **All applications must be post-marked by April 15th**
Mail to: MSSM Foundation
Friendship Scholarship Application
PMB 121
3144 North "G" Street, #125
Merced, CA 95340
12. Recipients will be notified of their acceptance by mail and / or Awards Night at their High School (no later than June 1st.)
13. Typing is preferred.

Instructions to Applicant

Your application for an MSSM Friendship Scholarship **MUST** include:

- Application form completely filled out
- Letters of recommendation may be from school personnel/teacher, a community member or employer. **AT LEAST ONE LETTER MUST BE SUBMITTED FROM A PERSONAL FRIEND** of your age group /a peer. (A total of three (3) letters only will be accepted). No letters over one page!
- Activity sheet completed.
- Personal essay stating educational and career plans, in addition to your thoughts on friendship, and how you may have benefited from it, or given to others. This will be a private letter.
- Typing is preferred.

MSSM Foundation

Friendship Scholarship

MERCED UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name in _____ School _____
 (Last) (First)

Address _____ Phone(209) _____
 (Number) (Street) (City)

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Social Security No _____

FAMILY

Name of Father (or guardian) _____

Occupation _____

Name of Mother (or guardian) _____

Occupation _____

Brothers (living at home) _____ Ages _____

 Attending college _____

Sisters (living at home) _____ Ages _____

 Attending college _____

EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER PLANS (4 year College/University only)

Anticipated College Major _____

Anticipated Career Plans _____

School Planning to Attend _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

ACTIVITIES RECORD

NAME _____ NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____

School Activities



Year of participation

Student Government:	9	10	11	12
Organizations/Clubs: (note leadership positions)				
Athletics:				
Awards and Honors:				
Community Activities:				
Hobbies:				
Employment: (state the duration)				