

JOHN L. DURHAM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST RULES

The purpose of this essay contest is to provide the selected candidates with financial assistance toward the attainment of higher education.

Eligibility for all applicants: Applicant must be the child of an active member of Local Union 1439 in good standing and must be a high school senior, college freshman or sophomore. Applicants cannot be a child of a full-time employee at the Local 1439 Union Hall.

Applicant will be required to submit the completed scholarship application and a 500-1000 word on the subject designated by the Executive Board. Essays must be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, single-sided, preferably typed and doubled spaced with **the essay topic at the beginning** of the essay. Names should not be included on the essay only on the application.

Applications may be requested by contacting the Recording Secretary of Local Union 1439 (Michelle Henkhaus) or by calling the Union office.

Applications and essays must be mailed to IBEW Local 1439, 2121 59th St., St. Louis, MO 63110 or emailed to local.1439@ibew1439.com and must be received by Friday, April 10, 2026.

Checks will be paid to the institution upon presentation of proof of enrollment and tuition bill to the Local Union.

Each year, the scholarship will be presented to the winning applicant at the St. Louis General Membership meeting in May. The recipient and their parents will be invited to be present.

Judging: Essays will be assigned a random number with names removed. A panel consisting of three (3) judges will be selected by Local 1439. Judges will rank the top three essays and points will be assigned. Three points for first place, two points for second, one point for third. The essay with the most points will be declared the winner.

Award: A first-place award of \$1,000.00 and a second-place award of \$500.00 will be given.

2026 Essay Topic:

"How Unions built the middle class and what that means for my future?"