



A Union of Professionals

Robert G. Porter Scholars Program

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
202/879-4400
www.aft.org

2011 Four-Year \$8,000 Postsecondary Scholarship Application

Randi Weingarten
PRESIDENT

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PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

You must be:

- A graduating high school senior; and
- The dependent of a current AFT member (who has been a member for at least one year).

Dependents of full- or part-time AFT national, state or local staff may NOT apply.

This form should be completed and returned to:

Robert G. Porter Scholars Program, 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2079.

This application must be postmarked no later than **March 31, 2011.**

I. FAMILY AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NEATLY.

A. APPLICANT DATA

APPLICANT'S NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

DATE OF BIRTH

B. UNION PARENT/GUARDIAN DATA

UNION PARENT'S OR GUARDIAN'S NAME

EMPLOYER

My parent My legal guardian

is a member of AFT local:*

LOCAL NAME AND NUMBER

CITY

STATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN E-MAIL ADDRESS

***NOTE: Membership will be verified by contacting your parent's or guardian's local.**

NOTE: This application must be complete, and directions must be followed. Failure to do so will result in your disqualification. For continuing scholarship qualification, recipients are expected to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75, as reflected in the annual transcript required, and must show continuing enrollment and satisfactory progress toward a degree. Your degree is expected to be completed within six years.

II. EDUCATION BACKGROUND AND FUTURE EDUCATION PLANS

A. SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDED:

NAME OF SCHOOL _____

LOCATION _____

YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION _____

B. AREA OF STUDY IN WHICH YOU PLAN TO SPECIALIZE IN COLLEGE:

C. COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY IN WHICH YOU CURRENTLY PLAN TO ENROLL (If not known, write "undecided"):

NAME OF SCHOOL _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

D. WHAT IS YOUR PROBABLE CAREER CHOICE?

III. SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES

List three school-related activities and explain why they are the most significant to you. (Attach **separate sheet**.)

IV. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Explain one of the community activities in which you have been involved. How did it change you and the people you served? How are you giving back to the community now? (Attach **separate sheet**.)

V. LEADERSHIP

Explain what you would consider your most important leadership role in high school. How long were you in this role? What did the work include? What impact did it have on you, those who interacted with you, and those who were served by the activity? What did you learn in the process? (Attach a **separate sheet**.)

VI. WORK EXPERIENCE

List jobs you held (including volunteer activities) during high school. Include the work performed, dates employed or volunteered, average hours worked. (Attach a **separate sheet**.)

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Submit at least two letters of recommendation. One must be from a teacher or counselor; one must be from a community representative, such as a minister, rabbi, priest, scout leader, employer or community service organization representative. All letters of recommendation should be written on official letterhead when possible.

VIII. PERSONAL STATEMENT

Describe how this scholarship will enable you to attend the college of your choice. (Attach a **separate sheet**.)

IX. ESSAY

On a **separate sheet**, write an essay of no more than 500 words that considers the following:

Recent tragic events have focused attention on bullying, an insidious form of harassment known to have horrific, if not deadly, consequences. According to Pier Forni, author of “The civility solution: what to do when people are rude,” students who are bullied and/or cyber-bullied face increased risk for depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide attempts. In addition, a “National Civility Survey” released in June 2010, shows that 59 percent of Americans believe the atmosphere in high schools is uncivil. Harassment and bullying are said to be the cause of lethal violence in schools and linked to 75 percent of school shootings. Worse, a survey of the literature shows that bullying has reached epidemic proportions and is not confined to the United States but is now universal. Bullying has become a public and mental health problem, and sadly, is not limited to the school grounds. Our networked society has extended it to cyberspace. According to an article in the *Journal of School Health*, 72 percent of students surveyed reported at least one online bullying incident, most frequently in the form of name-calling or insults.

In preparing your essay, consider the following questions and respond to those that most appeal to you. How do you perceive bullying? Is a culture change necessary to stop it? Who is ultimately responsible for putting an end to it in schools? Do you know of any bullying incidents at your school? If so, what was the outcome? What are the best steps to take to create a safe environment in which students can learn? Could you think of a way to quantify the loss to our nation that is a result of bullying?

The AFT and three other major education organizations have come together to call for a redoubling of efforts to protect children from bullying. “Children cannot live and learn when they are constantly being taunted and humiliated. They should feel safe in and outside school, and they should never feel threatened or targeted by other students,” says AFT President Randi Weingarten. The complete statement from the AFT, the National PTA, America’s Promise Alliance and the American Association of School Administrators can be found here:

www.aft.org/newspubs/news/2010/101510bullying.cfm

More from the AFT:

<http://www.aft.org/yourwork/tools4teachers/bullying/index.cfm>

Other sites:

- Dear Colleague Letter from the Department of Education addressing bullying: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201010.pdf>
- Background, summary and fast facts : <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-201010.pdf>
- New Jersey proposal to toughen anti-bullying laws follows Rutgers student suicide: http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/10/nj_proposals_to_toughen_anti-b.html
- Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (University of Colorado-Boulder): <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/safeschools/bullying.html>
- Cyberbullying Research Center: <http://cyberbullying.us/index.php>
- Safe Schools Coalition Site: <http://www.safe-schoolscoalition.org/safe.html>
- Find the Youth Page on Bullying: http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/topic_bullying.shtml
- American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.org/topics/bullying/index.aspx>
- National PTA Bullying Site: <http://www.pta.org/bullying.asp>
- GLSEN 2009 National School Climate Survey: <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/2624.html?sate=research&type=research> (Nearly 9 out of 10 LGBT Students Experience Harassment in School)
- PACER - Stop Bullying Now: <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/bpam/index.asp>

Your essay will be judged on the following criteria:

- Strength of argument;
- Ideas and content;
- Organization and clarity of expression; and
- Sources of information used (and cited).

NOTE: Essay must be typed. All essays become AFT property, and the AFT reserves the right to excerpt from your essay for publication.

SIGNATURES AND APPLICATION CHECKLIST

I hereby certify that all information provided in this application is complete and correct.

Signature of applicant:

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian who is an AFT member:

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE _____

BEFORE MAILING, CHECK TO MAKE SURE:

- The application is completely filled out.
- The parent/guardian who is an AFT member has signed the form.
- You have signed the Authorization for Release of Information form to release your secondary school transcript.
- Your parent/guardian has signed the Authorization for Release of Information form.
- The Secondary School Report is signed by a school official.
- You have signed the form certifying that the information provided is true and correct.
- You have included letters of recommendation.
- You have included your **official** transcript.

SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, a school must have signed authorization before releasing information about a student. Both student and parent or legal guardian should sign and date this authorization.

Permission is hereby given to school officials to release the secondary school record and other requested information to the Robert G. Porter Scholars Program for consideration for possible financial aid.

Student signature:

Parent or legal guardian's signature:

PRINT FULL NAME

PRINT FULL NAME

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

DATE _____

DATE _____

APPLICANT TESTING

AMERICAN COLLEGE TEST (ACT) SCORES

DATE TESTED _____

COMPOSITE _____

SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT TEST (SAT) SCORES

DATE TESTED _____

CRITICAL READING _____

MATH _____

WRITING _____

TOTAL _____

You may show the highest scores from different dates if it is to the applicant's advantage.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Grade point average at the end of the last academic year or through the first semester of the current academic year, whichever is higher: _____

Please describe any advanced placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate Program classes that you may have completed. If not applicable, please write "N/A." Attach a **separate sheet**, if necessary.

NOTE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR:

The above student is applying for a scholarship through the Robert G. Porter Scholars Program. We ask your cooperation in completing the Secondary School Report.

Please complete this page as accurately as possible. Sections left incomplete will limit the Robert G. Porter Scholars Program Committee's ability to adequately evaluate the applicant.

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate based on facts found in the official record. (Additional comments may be provided to the Robert G. Porter Scholars Program Committee in an accompanying letter typed on school letterhead.)

NAME _____

TITLE _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____