

21st Century Success Fellowship (Application due February 15th)

Opportunity. The 21st Century Success Fellowship is an exciting opportunity for 21st Century Scholars from St. Joseph County, Indiana, to join a collaborative professional development program that supports their success completing 2- or 4-year degrees from a college or university located in St. Joseph County, Indiana.

The 21st Century Success Fellowship has many benefits, including a \$5,000 stipend per academic year (\$500 per month from August to May). This money is in addition to the state-funded 21st Century Scholarship which applies to tuition.

21st Century Success Fellows actively participate in programs aimed at personal leadership development, career preparation and degree completion. In addition to activities like career exploration, professional development and networking opportunities, a quintessential leadership development opportunity includes near-peer mentoring and outreach to local 21st Century Scholars. These activities usually comprise 15-18 hours of participation per semester. Fellows also have the opportunity to participate in a paid summer internship at a local nonprofit.

The 21st Century Success Fellowship may be renewed to cover a 2- or 4-year course of study at an approved St. Joseph County* institution. ***Renewal is contingent on satisfactory participation in Fellowship activities and retention of the 21st Century Scholarship.***

ELIGIBILITY

Students must:

- Be a St. Joseph County, Indiana high school senior or college student eligible to receive a 21st Century Scholarship (meeting all scholar success program requirements);
- Hold a minimum 2.5 GPA in high school;
- Be a resident of St. Joseph County, Indiana;
- Graduate from an accredited St. Joseph County, Indiana high school;
- Intend to pursue or currently be pursuing a degree through a full-time course of study at an accredited tax-exempt college or university located in St. Joseph County.

St. Joseph County colleges and universities: Indiana University South Bend, Ivy Tech Community College South Bend, Bethel University, Holy Cross College, Saint Mary's College, University of Notre Dame, Purdue Polytechnic – South Bend.

Eligibility Note: Family members of those serving on the Fellowship nomination committee or Community Foundation staff are deemed ineligible (defined as spouses, lineal descendants and their spouses, siblings, and their spouses).

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ☐ Complete the 21st Century Success Fellowship Application through the Community Foundation Scholarship Application found online at: www.cfsjc.org/scholarshipapp
 - You will need to create an account; it's recommended you use a personal email address and not your school address.
 - Applicants who meet the eligibility listed above will see the 21st Century Fellowship opportunity after submitting the 'Applicant Information' page in the online application.
- ☐ **Recommendation form** completed by a person in a leadership position who knows you well (e.g. teacher, principal, or counselor) submitted through the online system. Do not use family members to complete the form. Forms are emailed directly to references to solicit feedback on specific qualities. (This is not a letter of recommendation.)
- ☐ **Official high school transcript.** Current high school seniors should submit a 7th semester transcript and college students should submit a final transcript. This will be uploaded by a school official into the online scholarship system.
- ☐ **College transcript** (if applicable). Unofficial transcripts may be submitted.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Additional information that has not been requested will not be accepted.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. There will be no exceptions.

Online application must be completed and submitted by 11:59 p.m. on February 15. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure the application is complete and all materials are received on or before the deadline.

Selection Criteria and Process: Recipients will be identified by a 21st Century Success Fellowship Selection Committee who will seek to identify students who have demonstrated motivation and a drive to succeed as evidenced in their application. In addition, the committee will take into consideration leadership, involvement in school-related activities, service, employment history, written essays, and a recommendation. A personal interview will also weigh significantly in the committee's selection process.

Renewal: The Fellowship is renewable for up to 2-4 years (depending on degree sought). Students are required to submit a renewal application annually to be considered for further support. Eligibility for fellowship renewal requires:

- Retaining the 21st Century Scholarship, which includes filing a FAFSA annually by April 15 and satisfactory progress toward a degree at a program eligible college or university, and
- Successful participation and engagement in Fellowship activities.

Renewal information will be sent to Fellowship recipients annually.

Initial award and subsequent renewals will be contingent on successful participation in both the 21st Century Success Fellowship Program and the state's 21st Century Scholars Program.