



**Shaping An
Accessible World**

TDF Communications Access Scholarship

scholarship@tdiforaccess.org

ABOUT TDI

TDI (formally known as Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.) was established in 1968 originally to promote further distribution of TTYs in the deaf community and to publish an annual national directory of TTY numbers. Today, it is an active national advocacy organization focusing its energies and resources to address equal access issues in telecommunications and media for people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened, and deaf-blind.

PURPOSE

TDI's Communications Access Scholarship Program was set-up to encourage and reward graduating high school seniors who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened or deaf-blind propose volunteer activities in order to improve communication access with-in their communities.

Students are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, as well as their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities.

TDI Scholars are well-rounded, bright students who not only excel academically, but are also actively involved in their communities and their schools. These students are passionate and service oriented, and demonstrate a sustained commitment to bettering their community.

AWARDS

TDI will award up to six (6) scholarships of \$2,500 (per award) to graduating Deaf or Hard of Hearing students in who are planning to attend post-secondary school at either a technical college or university.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must be grade 12 students graduating in 2020.
2. Applicants must be committed to attending post-secondary school starting in Fall 2020.
3. Applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents.
4. Current TDI board members and staff as well as their siblings, children, and grandchildren are not eligible for the Access Communications Scholarship Program.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Demonstrated record of volunteerism in the community in non-school sponsored activities.
2. Participation in extracurricular school activities
3. Demonstrated leadership skills
4. Academic achievement

- Applicants must have the endorsement of their school guidance counselor.

Application Requirements

To be considered for an TDI Scholarship, you must submit the following no later than Friday, May 15th, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.:

- Application form, activities summary, and statement of accuracy (pages 3, 4, 5)
- Proof of acceptance at an academic, vocational or technical school for post-secondary studies
- Letter of recommendation from volunteer organization
- Most recent High School transcript (photocopy is acceptable for application)
- Grade 12 yearbook or graduation photo
- Completion of Written or Video Essay that accompanies this application outlining your idea for people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened, or deaf-blind
 - Describing how you will advocate for greater communication access, or
 - Suggesting new communications technology that will provide greater access.

Recognition of Scholarship Donors

TDI thanks the following companies whose generous contributions during our 50th Anniversary Celebration made this scholarship program possible:

UltraTec, Inc

Sorenson Communications

ZVRS / Purple

Hamilton Telephone Company

Scholarship Application

Please type or clearly print your answers.				
First Name:		Last Name:		
Mailing Address				
Street or PO Box:				
City:		State		Postal Code:

Cell Phone:		Home Phone:	
Email Address:			
Date of Birth:	Month:	Day:	Year:
Gender:		Social Security Number: (Required by IRS)	
Name and Location of High School:			
Date and Time of Graduation Ceremony:			
Academic Average: (Your most recent school transcript is required)			
Name of Post-Secondary Institution Attending: (Proof of enrollment is required prior to disbursement of scholarship funds)			
Name and Address of Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) - if applicant is under age 18			
Name(s):			
Street:	Same As Above	Or	
City:	State:	Postal Code:	
Cell Phone:		Home Phone:	

Activities Summary

List your non-school sponsored volunteer activities in the community while in high school.

List your extracurricular activities and school related volunteer activities while in high school.

List any academic honors, awards, leadership roles and membership activities while in high school.

Tell us a little more about yourself: why you volunteer, hobbies, part-time work, career interests.

Written or Video Essay (written limited to one page – video limited to 3 minutes)

Outlining your idea for people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened, or deaf-blind a) describing how you will advocate for greater communication access, OR b) suggesting new communication technology that will provide greater access.

Statement of Accuracy for Student

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I hereby understand I will not submit this application without all required attachments and supporting information. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet eligibility criteria will not be considered for this scholarship.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, I may be required to be present at any potential awards ceremony, graduation, event, or reception to receive my scholarship award.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, it is my responsibility to remit to TDI the appropriate confirmation of enrollment from my post-secondary institution, for my scholarship to be paid directly to me in the fall.

I hereby acknowledge that according to IRS guidelines, I am required to provide my social security number and that I will be required to report these grant revenues to the IRS.

I authorize TDI to collect and use my personal information for the purpose of administering the Scholarship as required by law (reporting to the IRS).

Acceptance of the TDI Scholarship award constitutes permission for TDI to use my name and photo for advertising and promotional purposes without additional compensation, unless prohibited by law.

Signature of scholarship applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian: _____ Date: _____

(if applicant is under the age of 18)

Statement of Support by Guidance Counselor

I hereby affirm that this applicant, _____, meets the criteria set forth by this scholarship program and that I support this application to TDI.

Name of Guidance Counselor supporting the application _____.

High School: _____.

Contact information (email and phone): _____

Signature of Guidance Counselor: _____ Date: _____

Checklist

- Completed application, pages 3, 4, 5 and 6 (must include SSN for reporting to IRS)
- Guidance Counselor statement of support and signature, page 6
- Acceptance letter from post-secondary institution if available at the time of application
(*Proof of acceptance and enrollment is required prior to any disbursement of scholarship funds*)
- School Transcript (photocopy is acceptable for application) Grade 12 year book or graduation photo (in JPEG or PNG format)
- Written OR Video Essay of proposed community advocacy project or suggested technology to improve communications access for people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened, or deaf-blind.

- Email COMPLETE APPLICATION and optional ASL Video: scholarship@tdiforaccess.org

REMINDER:

The deadline for this application to be received at TDI is:

Friday, May 15th, 2019 4:00 p.m. (CDT) NO EXCEPTIONS!

For More Information contact Claude Stout at scholarship@tdiforaccess.org

(to view ASL Video of Application click: www.tdiforaccess.org/applyscholarship)