

SUMMARY of SCHOLARSHIPS & APPLICATION PROCESS

Scholarship applications are submitted in the Fall-Spring semesters and are paid in the year following application. Please be aware of what the student’s academic status is at the time of application and at the time she will receive the award. For example, if the student is a sophomore when applying, then the scholarship will be awarded for her junior year.

Applications are due **January 22**. Beginning in Fall 2021-Spring 2022 all applications will be uploaded to the website, <http://www.nmpeo.org> on the dropdown menu “Resources” then “Scholarship Upload.” See Directions for Scholarship Committees of Sponsoring Chapters for more details.

Delilah Williams 1	Delilah Williams 2	NM PEO	Francine Neff	Jean Boswell
1 st year students	2 nd year students	Junior or Senior standing	1 st through 4 th year standing	Junior or Senior standing
Any New Mexico accredited college or university OR Cottey College	Any New Mexico accredited college or university OR Cottey College	Any accredited college or university	Cottey College only	Any accredited college or university

Student requirements: Must be US Citizen, must not be related to member of scholarship committee, may be related to a P.E.O. member, must meet requirements of specific scholarship. Please note: no student may receive more than one scholarship.

Application package

Order of documents:

1. Application
2. Chapter letter
3. Student purpose/goal statement
4. Student resume (note – 1st year students may not have one)
5. Faculty endorsement letter
6. Official transcript

Note: The Faculty endorsement letter must be from a faculty member who knows the student and is familiar with her work and abilities. This endorsement should not be from a family member/family acquaintance, or from another P.E.O. sister, etc. The faculty member may be an Emeritus faculty, if familiar with the student. The official transcript should be dated through the Fall Semester immediately preceding the application.

NM State Scholarship Awards:

The NM State Scholarships are the NM PEO, Delilah Williams I and Delilah Williams II Scholarships. They are awarded in two payments, half the first semester and half the second semester of the year following acceptance. The payments are made once a Confirmation of Enrollment (COE) is received from the student for each semester. The COE form is sent to the student by the Chairman of the State Scholarship Committee. Payments are made by the New Mexico State Treasurer directly to the University that the student is attending, not to the student. Acceptance or rejection letters are sent both to the student and to chapters that submitted applications. Letters should be expected six weeks following

the deadline, approximately the first week of March of each year. The accepted students will receive a form to fill out, and a notice about tax information.

Graduation Date:

If your applicant is scheduled to graduate in December of the year she will receive the award, then only half of the scholarship will be given. If your student intends to participate in an internship outside of school during the funding year, the same applies. We prefer to receive applicants that will be able to take advantage of the entire year of funding. Otherwise, funding is left in the State accounts.

Francine Neff and Jean Boswell Scholarships:

The Francine Neff and Jean Boswell scholarships are approved and paid through the P.E.O. International Foundation. Once a student is voted upon favorably by the State Scholarship Committee, the Chairman of the State Scholarship Committee submits the name to the Foundation. The student's application is voted upon by the Foundation's Board of Trustees. This may take up to two-three weeks, once the student is submitted. The Chairman of the State Scholarship Committee is then notified of the student's acceptance. The acceptance letter to the chapter and the student may then be sent, but not until that time. This time frame could be as much as one month following the time when the letters for the New Mexico scholarships are sent. The Foundation is not necessarily going to disapprove a student, but this is their process. The Chairman of the State Scholarship Committee will then contact the student to assist them in electronically linking to the foundation.

The payments of the Foundation Scholarships are made according to their rules and on their schedule. The Confirmation of Enrollment forms are submitted through the portal between July 1- December 1 of each year and payments are made to the institution of higher education. The Jean Boswell scholarship is paid in one lump sum.

Number of Applicants per Chapter:

Some chapters feel that having more than one applicant for a particular scholarship may limit the success of any one applicant being accepted for a scholarship. However, please remember that these scholarships are awarded on merit – the young woman's grades, activities, purpose, and potential for success. Many chapters submit more than one applicant and also submit an applicant for more than one scholarship.

A Strong Application:

Please remember that these scholarships are very competitive. The responsibility resides with the submitting chapter to ensure that the applications correctly display the student's abilities. The better the student looks with regards to grades, purpose/goal statement, outside activities, her potential to succeed, and ability to express herself, the better the application will be scored. Sometimes outside activities can weigh one student over another with equal scholarship capabilities.

Please be sure the personal purpose/goal statement adequately reflects the student's abilities and future goals. Please also ensure that the personal statement is written in good English. This statement really tells the committee more about the student, their dreams, where the student is now in achieving those goals, and reflects her personality. This statement is one of the most important parts of the application.

Scholarship Committee:

The scholarship committee is comprised of a chairman and four readers. These women spend many hours reading and grading these applications. It is very difficult to discern one applicant's abilities from another, because we receive so many excellent candidates. If a tie does exist when the votes are returned to the chairman, the chairman is the tie breaker.

Number of Scholarships Awarded:

The number of scholarships awarded is dependent upon the funds available. This is true for both NM state awarded scholarships and those provided by the Foundation. There are between three and four scholarships awarded for each of the categories each year.

Submitted by Margo Milleret
NM State Scholarship Chairman 2021-2022