

Whitewater High School
Local & Area Scholarship Competition
By Pamela Sonmor-Wintz

Scholarship Night at Whitewater High School will be held on **Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.** This very special program promises to be an exciting celebration and recognition of achievement for outstanding students in the Class of 2010.

Seniors will receive the **2010 Scholarship Handbook** after they attend a presentation about the Local & Area Scholarship Competition in the WHS auditorium on **Tuesday, March 16.** Students will be asked to complete an **electronic application** between March 16 and April 9, which is used by most of the scholarship sponsors in our community. The electronic application, or **WHS Common Scholarship Application,** will help students organize information for numerous scholarships and will increase the quality and consistency of their responses. Seniors will be able to access the electronic application from the student network or from the WUSD website under the Whitewater High School / Student Services Office / Scholarship section.

Completed scholarship applications must be returned to the Student Services Office no later than **3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 9.** Applications will then be distributed to sponsoring scholarship committees for the decision making process. Recipients of local and area scholarships will be sent an **invitation to attend Scholarship Night** around May 10 and should be prepared to announce where they plan on attending school and major areas of study. **Students must be present to win.**

Scholarships in this competition are awarded to young people for many reasons. Students are recognized for academic excellence, superior test scores, and outstanding achievement in extra-curricular activities. Many students will win a scholarship because they have excelled in clubs and organizations or because they are majoring in a specific area at a special school. Some organizations award scholarships to students who have outstanding character and go out of their way to help others or to students who have financial need. There are also families in our area who award memorial scholarships to young people who possess qualities similar to their loved ones.

Scholarship recipients are selected in various ways. The individual or organization sponsoring the scholarship selects approximately sixty percent of scholarship winners. The Whitewater High School Faculty Scholarship Committee selects the others. This committee consists of eight members representing a cross section of the faculty. The Faculty Scholarship Committee is frequently asked to screen the candidates and select students whose qualifications are presented to the local group or organization for a final selection.

Being selected to receive a scholarship is an honor, not an entitlement. It is very important that scholarship recipients send a **letter of thanks** for every scholarship they receive. Names and addresses of scholarship sponsors will be distributed with other information at Scholarship Night. It is strongly recommended that students write and send thank you notes before graduation in June.

In most cases, scholarship money is provided after the student has enrolled in school. Students must ask the college or university registrar to send appropriate notification for payment to the scholarship contact person in a timely manner. Organizations often ask for “**proof of enrollment**” during the first or second semester. Other scholarship sponsors may ask for “**successful completion of first semester**” and “**proof of enrollment**” in second semester classes. If this is the case, recipients will need to provide a transcript of first semester grades and a document from the registrar stating proof of enrollment in second semester. The scholarship contact person notifies the sponsoring organization that payment can be made after the required information is received. It is the responsibility of the organization to provide the money. The high school is not obligated to cover the award if the organization does not have funds to pay for the scholarship. **Recipients must provide the appropriate documentation within one year of Scholarship Night to claim their scholarship money.**

WHS Local & Area Scholarship Competition 2010 Timeline

Tuesday, March 16: Local & Area Scholarship Presentation to Seniors

March 16 – April 9: Seniors Complete Scholarship Applications
(Assistance is available everyday from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the LMC)

Friday, April 9: Scholarship Applications Due in the Student Services Office at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 1: WHS Alumni Corporation Scholarship Banquet at 5:00 p.m.
(Recipients must be present to win)

Tuesday, May 10: Letters Mailed to Scholarship Recipients

Wednesday, May 26: Scholarship Night, 7:30 p.m., WHS Auditorium
(Recipients must be present to win)

May 27 – June 13: Recipients Write Thank You Letters to Sponsoring Organizations

We are very proud of seniors in the Class of 2010 and look forward to recognizing their talent, hard work, and extraordinary accomplishments with financial awards at Scholarship Night on May 26!