



Illinois Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

Robert G. Porter Scholarship

The Illinois Federation of Teachers established the Robert G. Porter Scholarship to honor the late Illinois educator, union activist and Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers.

Porter spent his early years in education as a civics teacher in East St. Louis, Illinois. He served as treasurer of the East St. Louis Federation of Teachers, Local 1220. In 1960, Porter became the aide to AFT President Carl Megel at the union's national headquarters, which was then located in Chicago. Porter was instrumental in chartering many AFT locals in Illinois, building the foundation for the strong IFT that today represents more than 100,000 men and women.

Porter served as AFT Secretary-Treasurer from 1963 until his death in November 1991. The AFT grew from 50,000 members to nearly 800,000 during his 28 years as Secretary-Treasurer. For many IFT members, Bob Porter was "Mr. AFT." To honor his lifelong commitment to education and to the labor movement, the Illinois Federation of Teachers established this scholarship in his name.

AWARD

The Illinois Federation of Teachers shall present two scholarship awards in the amount of \$10,000 each. (Distributed in the amount of \$2,500 each year for four years, provided a student is enrolled full-time at an Illinois public university and maintains a "C" cumulative average.)

ELIGIBILITY

The award is entirely unrestricted as to race, religion or political affiliation. The applicant must be the son or daughter of a currently employed, active member in good standing of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the son or daughter of a member of an IFT retiree chapter, or the son or daughter of a deceased member who was in good standing with the Illinois Federation of Teachers at the time of death. The applicant must be a high school senior with a cumulative "B" average. Scholarship winners must provide proof of acceptance and registration as a full time student in a bachelor's degree program at a public Illinois university.

HOW TO APPLY

The application must be completed in full and signed by the applicant and parent or guardian. IFT membership will be verified before presentation of application to the Robert G. Porter Scholarship Committee of the Illinois Federation of Teachers.

The following information must be submitted with this application:

- ✓ Official Transcript, including class size.
- ✓ Class rank if available
- ✓ Extra-curricular activities record, including dates of participation
- ✓ College entrance test scores (Scholastic Aptitude Test [SAT] or American College Test [ACT])
- ✓ Financial information:
 - Anticipated costs of the college you plan to attend
 - List of all monetary scholarships or awards for which you have applied, if any
 - How you anticipate paying the remainder (loans, work, family contributions)
 - Additional financial information you wish the committee to consider
- ✓ Work employment record, if any, including type of work, approximate number of years, hours per week
- ✓ Statement of recommendation from a teacher, dean, counselor or other educator
- ✓ Completion of essay, typed

Incomplete applications will be cause for rejection. Facsimiles not accepted.

The material submitted with the application will not be returned.

*Completed applications with all supplementary materials must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2020
Illinois Federation of Teachers, 500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont, IL 60559, phone: 630-468-4080*



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APPLICATION FOR 2020 ROBERT G. PORTER SCHOLARSHIP

Please print or type

Name of applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Name of high school now attending _____

Address of high school _____

Expected high school graduation date _____ Graduating class size: _____

Name of applicant's parent or guardian
who is/was an IFT member _____

Address of IFT member _____

IFT Member's home e-mail address _____

IFT member's local union name and number _____

First & second college choices (must be Illinois public universities)

1) _____ 2) _____

I hereby apply for the 2020 IFT Porter Scholarship Award and agree to abide by the decision of the scholarship committee. I understand that the decision of the committee is final.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Applicant

Date

Date

Completed applications must include the following:

- Official transcripts, including class size and class rank if available
- List of extra-curricular activities with dates of participation
- Copy of college entrance test scores (Scholastic Aptitude Test [SAT] or American College Test [ACT])
- Recommendation letter from a teacher, dean, counselor or other educator
- Financial Information
- Typed essay

*Completed application with supplementary materials must be received in the IFT offices at
500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont, IL 60559 by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2020*

Facsimiles will NOT be accepted.



Name _____

Anticipated annual cost of your first and second choice colleges that you plan to attend

1) _____ 2) _____

List all monetary scholarships or awards for which you have applied or have received
(write "none" if applicable)
(Attach additional pages if necessary)

List applicants work history, including hours per week (write "none" if applicable)
(Attach additional pages if necessary)

Indicate how you plan to cover college expenses in excess of any scholarship awards
(e.g. loans, work, parent/guardian contributions)
(Attach additional pages if necessary)

Additional financial information you wish the committee to consider
(Attach additional pages if necessary)



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IFT 2020 Porter Scholarship Applicant Essay

Name _____

Please respond in 500 - 750 words to **ONE** of the following essay options. Be specific and cite at least two but no more than four credible sources in MLA or APA format. Your answer should be well-organized, specific, evidence and experienced-based. Cite your word count at the end of your essay. If using a separate page, be sure to include your name on your essay.

OPTION 1: Specifically, what role do teachers' unions such as the IFT currently play in the public education of students like yourself? Where do you think teachers' unions are effective and where could improvements be made? Why is your parent's/guardian's IFT membership important?

or

OPTION 2: Select a historical example of one union and describe the extent to which it exemplified what you think it means to be part of organized labor. Your essay can address a specific campaign or a general era. You should assess the ways the union did or did not act as an agent of social and economic change. Your essay should also indicate why the union in your essay is or is not relevant today.

or

OPTION 3: Select a historical example of a union leader and describe the extent to which this leader exemplified what it means to be an advocate for workers. Your essay can focus on a specific campaign or event, or can be about the leader's overall impact on the labor movement. Your answer should address how this person did or did not exemplify leadership qualities. Your essay should assess how this leader did or did not act as an agent of social change and include how this leader's impact is relevant to the present day.

Attach additional pages if necessary.