

Scholarship Information

Professor Ken Pengally of Minnesota State University (Mankato Campus) and a Maple Grove Lion has shared some important information regarding college scholarships. For clubs with scholarship program this is great info. For the parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles of college bound youth this is also great information!

Greetings All Lions Clubs:

Here is the site explaining the North Star Promise Scholarship program.

<https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/sPages/northstarpromise.cfm>

This is a significant program for all Lions Club to know about because it affects the awarding of scholarships.

The key point is: **family income**.

If a student's family income is below \$80,000, and, if the student is attending a Minnesota state college or university, then that student qualifies for full tuition and fees. If that student seeks a 4 year degree, the student is awarded money for 120 credits. If that qualifying student seeks a 2 year degree, the award is for 60 credits. The student must demonstrate progress each semester and re-qualifies each time. (see guidelines cited above)

Minnesota State University, Mankato, has annual tuition cost of approximately \$9500 for the year. That means a qualifying student would receive a total scholarship of \$38,000 over those 4 years (120 credits total). A student wanting a 2 year degree (AA) would receive half that amount for 2 years.

You can read the guidelines as to how other scholarships are handled: they are deducted from the amount the student qualifies for. You will note that the funding will apply to students currently enrolled in a Minnesota state college or university for this fall.

However, on-campus housing costs are not covered by this Promise scholarship. At Mankato housing costs would be \$10,000 a year. I have asked Minnesota State University, Mankato, for clarity on the housing scholarship option I've pointed out. I have several endowed scholarships funded and the Promise may affect how monies are awarded.

I would suggest that the Scholarship Committee discuss the awarding of the annual scholarships. If a student who applies to the Lions Club for a scholarship qualifies for the Promise, the scholarship could be a "housing scholarship" at a state college or university. My reading of the guidelines suggests that this money would then not be discounted from the student's Promise award.

If the qualifying Minnesota student plans to attend a private college or one out of state, then they don't qualify for this Promise Scholarship. They are forfeiting \$38,000 in monies for a 4 year, in-state degree.

The North Star Promise scholarship program is addressing the skyrocketing costs of higher education. Minnesota is trying to educate its labor pool for the next generation by offering students with family income limitations an opportunity for higher education. I believe we should celebrate this effort to help a significant number of Minnesota families.

Old Lion Ken
Maple Grove Lions