



## **The Mika McKinney Scholarship**

### **Description:**

Mika McKinney was a passionate equestrian and a member of both the IHSA and the Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA) while at Mount Holyoke College. She served as the team captain for the dressage team and excelled at both disciplines, representing both teams at National Finals. During her junior year at Mount Holyoke College, she was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. While undergoing an intense chemotherapy regimen, her commitment to the sport did not waver, and she won her class at the 2017 IDA Nationals despite limited practice. When osteosarcoma led to an amputation of her left leg, Mika's positive spirit prevailed, and she immediately set her sights on the Paralympics. Unfortunately, she did not have the opportunity to carry out her Paralympic dreams, but she is remembered as a competitive and inspirational equestrian athlete with admirable strength.

The Mika McKinney scholarship looks to recognize an IHSA student who identifies as a person of color or a first-generation college student and who embodies Mika's love, passion, and dedication to the sport of equestrian. This scholarship is reserved for current IHSA riders in Zone 1 Region 3.

### **Requirements:**

To apply and be considered for the IHSA Zone 1 Region 3 Mika McKinney scholarship, applicants must be a current member of an IHSA team in Zone 1 Region 3, and identify as a person of color or first-generation college student.

### **Other Requirements:**

An official transcript, including GPA and class ranking, where applicable.

Two letters of recommendation



Application Questions:

- 1) Brief record of involvement in IHSA equestrian activities, including competitions, activities, volunteer work, jobs, and other participation. (Please do not list out every ribbon won, just highlights).
- 2) Brief description of future equine, equestrian, or college-related projects or aspirations.
- 3) Highlights of high school/and or college academic involvement (clubs, band, athletics, special projects, awards, or other special academic achievements)
- 4) Highlights of high school and/or college community service activities/projects (please indicate whether paid or volunteer activities)
- 5) Current means of meeting college expenses, please be specific and complete: 1. Family 2. Student Loans 3. Grants 4. Job 5. Other (explain)
- 6) Short Essay [not to exceed 300 words] What does the IHSA mean to you?

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION IS MARCH 1, 2023**

**Please submit the completed application with all attachments directly to Tara Lowary no later than March 1, 2023. Applications received via email or with a postmark of later than March 1, 2023 will not be considered.**

**Tara Lowary – IHSA Zone 1 Region 3 President**

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