



APPLICATION FOR THE VINCENT BEGGS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

*Complete this application if you are applying for any of the scholarships below.

Beggs Memorial Scholarship: for students planning to enroll full-time at an accredited Junior College or an accredited four-year college or university to pursue an undergraduate degree.

Award Amount: \$5,000 (annual payment of \$1,250 each of four years)

Beggs Technical/Vocational Scholarship: for students planning to enroll full-time at an accredited vocational or technical institution of post-secondary education including certificate programs at Community/Junior Colleges.

Award Amount: \$2,500 (one-time payment)

Indicate if you are applying for the 4yr Memorial Scholarship or for the 1 time Technical/Vocational Scholarship.

I am applying for the _____ Scholarship

Application Deadline: Tuesday March 31, 2026.

John Vincent Beggs Jr.

March 2, 1930 – February 14, 2009

Mr. Beggs was a member of our community. He was raised on a family farm and obtained a Business Administration degree from Illinois Wesleyan in 1952. He served in the U.S. Air Force and had a career at State Farm Insurance Company. At his retirement from State Farm in 1989, he was supervising approximately \$40 billion worth of investments for the company. Vincent Beggs also served on the Illinois Wesleyan University's Board for several years and in 1999 first served on the Board's Farm Committee. He began chairing the Farm Committee in 2003.

Mr. Beggs was proud of his agrarian roots. He had a deep appreciation of the land and the opportunities that owning land provides. In 1987, after a successful career, he bought his first farm near Beason, Illinois. He was a strong proponent of conservation tillage, believing it was important to preserve and improve the soil for future generations. He also encouraged conservation tillage on both his farm and the Wesleyan University farms.

Additionally, Mr. Beggs cared about future generations and helping mankind. After his death nearly his entire estate was donated to various groups in the local area for the benefit of mankind at large as there were no immediate heirs. His land was donated to Illinois Wesleyan University and the remainder of the estate was primarily divided between several area colleges and high schools, including Clinton High School.

It was Mr. Beggs' desire to provide a scholarship to students who would be attending a vocational/technical school, junior college, academic college or university after graduation from Clinton High School. It was Mr. Beggs' intention for the scholarship to be awarded to those students who have demonstrated academic performance, but it is not necessarily limited to the top performers. The scholarship may be given to a student that as Mr. Beggs stated, "is a bit off the top". Recipients are also to be of good moral character and have a financial need.

It is the Clinton Community Educational Foundation's honor and privilege to be entrusted with this gift from Mr. Beggs. Mr. Beggs' gift is not just a gift of money, but rather it is a living legacy. It is a way to pass along to future generations that which he found important. It is a way to invest in people, the benefits of which will be reaped for years. On behalf of Mr. Beggs, the Foundation would like to wish you success in the future.

VINCENT BEGGS SCHOLARSHIP

A Clinton High School graduate may apply for the Beggs Scholarship. Scholarship candidates are evaluated by completing an application, submitting an essay, and sitting for a personal interview, if invited, with the scholarship committee. A complete application includes:

- **General information Document-** See attached form.
- **Applicant Essay-** See attached form.
- **Personal Resume-** Please list your community and church activities, school extra-curricular, interests and hobbies, employment history and any honors/awards you have received while in high school
- **High School Transcript(s)-** Complete, except for last semester
- **College Transcript(s)-** for any college courses completed while in high school
- **Two letters of recommendation** - Request and submit two (2) letters of recommendation, only one of which may be provided by a current or recent teacher or school employee, and **one provided by a contact outside of the school district. Do not use relatives or CCEF board members.**
- **Be sure to include all of the above or the application will be denied.**

Completed applications are to be returned in a sealed envelope to the high school guidance office by the application deadline noted on the application packet cover page. The outside of the envelope must be marked with the student's name and CCEF-Vincent Beggs Scholarship.

After submission of a complete application, selected students will be informed of the date, location and time for a personal interview with the scholarship committee. *Failure to be present for the interview will disqualify the student from the selection process.* The student should be prepared to speak with the scholarship committee about his/her application

Those students selected to receive a scholarship will receive further instructions outlining the eligibility requirements for disbursement of the scholarship award.

The number of scholarships awarded may vary each year depending on Foundation Income and student disbursement may vary according to student needs. Scholarship decisions are made by the scholarship committee which is comprised of district faculty members, CCEF board members and/or community members. The Clinton Community Educational Foundation has the final decision on all scholarship awards.

Questions: Contact the CCEF Scholarship Committee by email at info@ccef15.org.

Vincent Beggs Scholarship
General Information Document

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

H. S. Grade Point Average: _____ SAT/ACT Composite Score: _____

POST HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

School/Program attendance plans, include school/institute name and program of study:

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

I certify that I am currently in my last academic year and graduating from Clinton Community High School. All information provided on this application is true and accurate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Vincent Beggs Scholarship

Applicant Essay

In an essay of approximately 500 words, describe the life experiences and/or people that have most influenced your career decision. How do you envision those influences impacting your future?

Please double space and use a legible font 12 pt. or larger. Sign and date below and attach the essay to the back of this form.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

In your attached letter of application please include mention of how long and under what circumstances you have known the applicant. Please comment on the applicant's potential.

In your letter of recommendation, the writers should mention how long and under what circumstances they have known you. Please comment on the applicant's potential. Please instruct the writers to submit the letter in a sealed envelope. Include the two letters of recommendation with the rest of the application packet. Remember, request and submit two (2) letters of recommendation, only one of which may be provided by a current or recent teacher or school employee, and **one provided by a contact outside of the school district** (a family friend, church leader, coach of non-school related activity, previous employer, etc.). **Do not use relatives or CCEF board members.**

Reference Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applications are due Tuesday March 31, 2026.