



ANN C. WELLS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF STEM FIELDS

Scholarship Background

Ann Caldwell Wells had deep Virginia roots. Born and raised on a small farm outside Lynchburg, Ann helped her father with all manner of farming chores and learned to drive the family tractor at a young age, instilling independence and an early understanding that abilities were unrelated to gender.

Supported by a family that believed in education, Ann was an "A" student in chemistry and mathematics, graduating with honors from Lynchburg College in 1965 and earning a Master's degree in Education from the University of Virginia when she was 55. Ann started her career in education as a general science and chemistry teacher for Campbell County Schools,



serving in that capacity for nearly 20 years. She was then promoted to Supervisor of Math & Science, where she served in the central office for another 16 years. Ann Wells passed away from cancer in 2011. She is survived by her two children, Kimberly Wells Bell and David Bolling Wells, and by five grandchildren. David graduated from the Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology (CVGS) in 1989. He and his wife, Sonya Moore-Wells, have established this scholarship to honor David's mother and share her love of education and STEM fields by helping support the higher education of two deserving CVGS graduates each year.

Scholarship Award

This scholarship provides one male and one female recipient up to \$10,000 each to help cover the costs of attending a four-year college or university in the United States. Such costs may include tuition, room and board, required fees, textbooks, and technology. Recipients will be eligible to renew this \$10,000 award for three additional years, for a total of \$40,000 over four years.

Scholarship Eligibility

Recipients shall be selected annually from the pool of applicants, each of whom must be a twelfth grade student enrolled in the Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology. In addition, applicants must make a declaration of intent to attend a four-year college or university in the United States and pursue a major in a science, technology, engineering, or math field. Both US citizens and eligible non-citizens as defined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) may apply. Please note that students who have already received a commitment for a full scholarship to attend college, as well as relatives of current CVGS staff, are not eligible.

Selection Criteria for Finalists

The scholarship selection criteria include consideration of past academic performance, performance on standardized tests, financial need, and student essays. Applicants will complete and submit the application, along with a copy of their high school transcript and a copy of the Student Aid Report from the FAFSA, to the CVGS Program Coordinator by the application deadline.

Committee members will rank the completed applications holistically, focusing on

- 1) academic achievement and scholarly characteristics demonstrated specifically at the Governor's School along with
- 2) financial need as evidenced by the FAFSA Student Aid Report Expected Family Contribution and as stated in the essays.

Committee members will give equal consideration to academic merit and financial need. Additional evidence that shall be considered includes the student essays which will focus on academic or financial need challenges. In the case of tie rankings, evidence of student leadership, community involvement, or student initiative or resilience shall be considered. As a final note, while achievement at the base high school will be considered in the academic merit component, direct comparisons of Grade Point Averages among students from different base high schools will not occur due to the different courses available and GPA weighting practices in place among the ten high schools that participate in the CVGS.

Notification of Status as Finalist

All applicants will receive a letter thanking them for their application and indicating if they have been selected as a finalist. If an applicant is selected as a finalist and is granted an interview, he or she must be available on the date and time the interview is scheduled.

For the 2017-18 academic year, interviews for the Ann C. Wells Memorial Scholarship will be scheduled in the morning on Friday, April 27, 2018.

Selection Criteria for the Two Scholarship Winners

The finalists will each report for an interview with the selection committee that will last between 15 and 30 minutes. The conclusions drawn by the selection committee for each finalist will be added to the body of information in each application, and the two winners will be selected.

Notification of Status (Scholarship Winner)

The two scholarship winners will be announced at the CVGS annual Recognition Reception in the spring. *For 2017-18, this will occur on Sunday, May 6, at 2 pm.*

Scholarship Renewal

In January each scholarship winner will be invited to submit an application for scholarship renewal. The scholarship can be renewed three times for a total of four years of financial support. Renewal requires that the student demonstrate evidence of 1) participation and planned continuation in a STEM major, 2) a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and 3) continuing financial need for allowable expenses (tuition, room and board, and required fees and textbooks) for undergraduate study for up to \$10,000 per

year. Each year any unexpended scholarship funds will remain with the scholarship endowment.

Questions about Scholarship

If you have any questions about the Ann C. Wells Memorial Scholarship or the application or selection process, please contact the President/CEO of the Central Virginia Governor's School Foundation. For 2017-18, the President/CEO of the Central Virginia Governor's School Foundation is Dr. Stephen C. Smith. Dr. Smith can be reached at ssmith@cvgs.k12.va.us or by phone at (434) 477-5980.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. Why does the scholarship award “up to” \$10,000 per year?

If a scholarship recipient has grants or other scholarships which result in less than \$10,000 in remaining allowable annual expenses, this scholarship will cover but not exceed that amount. However, textbook expenses for a year are estimated at \$1,000, and the expenses for technology are also estimated at \$1,000 annually.

2. What is meant by “demonstrated academic achievement” in the selection criteria?

Each student who applies should have a minimum of a “B” average for semester course grades at CVGS.

3. What is meant by “scholarly characteristics” in the selection criteria?

Each student should have demonstrated a desire to learn, an attitude of personal responsibility for learning, and a willingness to work hard in the challenging courses at CVGS.

4. What is meant by “financial need” in the selection criteria?

Each student who applies will submit the Expected Family Contribution value from the FAFSA. In addition, each applicant should be able to articulate, his or her level of financial need both in the application essay section and, if selected, in the interview. As a broad guideline, a successful applicant would have modest assets and a gross annual income that less than \$80,000 for a typical family of four who will have one child in college.

5. What is an “eligible non-citizen” as defined by the FAFSA?

Generally, you are an eligible noncitizen if you are one of the following:

- U.S. permanent resident, with a Permanent Resident Card,
- Conditional permanent resident (I-551C)
- Other eligible noncitizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: “Refugee,” “Asylum Granted,” “Indefinite Parole,” “Humanitarian Parole,” or “Cuban-Haitian Entrant”
- A citizen of the Republic of Palau (PW), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (MH), or the Federated States of Micronesia (FM).