

KEN VANDEHEI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

About the Scholarship: Kenneth Gerald Vandehei, 48, died from a lightning strike while vacationing with his family at Lake Powell on Sunday, July 30, 2006. Ken Vandehei was born and raised in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He graduated from Cheyenne Central High School in 1976 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wyoming in 1981. Prior to moving to Arizona, Ken pursued a successful career as a general contractor and land developer in Cheyenne's Western Hills. In 1990, he moved to Phoenix and started Vandehei Enterprises and San Tan Distributing. He was also a regional mortgage banker for Community Lending, Inc. and a Senior Associate with World Financial Group. A lover of aviation, Ken earned his instrument-rated private pilot's license in 2002 and frequently flew his family to vacation destinations in their plane. A man of true character, Ken was loved by many and respected by all who knew him. His strong work ethic and dedication to his family, was matched only by his love for life. To honor Ken's life and passion, his family established the Ken Vandehei Scholarship Fund managed by the Higley Achievement Foundation. The scholarship is awarded annually to outstanding high school seniors who plan to continue their education at a college or university of their choice. The scholarship awards vary in amounts from \$1,000 - \$8,000.

All application materials, including sealed official transcripts and 2 sealed letters of recommendation from 2 different Higley Unified School District instructors and/or administrative personnel must be postmarked on or before the first Friday in April.

Questions? Contact Mark Swisher (mdswisher@hotmail.com, 480-235-5857).

CHECKLIST OF APPLICATION MATERIALS

Please submit **two complete copies of your application materials** (one original and one photocopy).

Fasten sets with a paper clip or binder clip—**do not staple**.

Each set of application materials should include:

Application

Resume

Personal Essay

Letter of acceptance from chosen college or university

List of Other Scholarship Awards

1 sealed official high school transcripts

2 letters of recommendation from a Higley Unified School District instructor or administrative staff member

Mail all application materials to: Higley Achievement Foundation

Attn: Mark Swisher

16410 E. Fairview St.

Gilbert, Arizona 85295

***Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered.**

Student Name

(Last, First, M.I.)

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Letter of Recommendation

The student named above is applying for the Ken Vandehei Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to a selective group of Higley and/or Williams Field students from this year's graduating class. The application requires 2 sealed letters of recommendation on official district letterhead from a Higley Unified School District instructors or administrative personnel.

Recommendation Guidelines:

In your letter, please indicate the name of the student. Discuss the qualities the student has demonstrated that you feel make him/her competitive for **Ken Vandehei Memorial Scholarship**. In addition, please comment on his/her intellectual ability, commitment to education, and campus/community involvement.

Recommender's Name _____

Department/Affiliation _____

Title _____

Length of time you have known the student _____

Ken Vandehei Memorial Scholarship Program

Scholarship Amount

- \$1,000 - \$8,000 Awards (2-Year or 4-Year College)
 - \$250 - \$2,000 Per Year
 - Paid directly to attending college each semester
- Scholarships must be renewed each year
 - Must satisfy yearly criteria (*See Monitoring Student Progress*)

Duration of Award

- Renewable
- Maximum four years per recipient
- Recipient must submit transcripts after each school semester

Scholarship Criteria

- *Primary award criteria*
 - Must have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA
 - Consistent Involvement in Extracurricular Activities
 - Leadership
 - Participation in specific activities
 - Awards and recognition
 - Personal Attributes
- **Eligible applicants**
 - Higley Unified School District Graduating Seniors from Higley High or Williams Field High
- **Award restrictions**
 - Renewable One-Year Terms (Max. 4 Years)
 - Full-time attendance
- **Other Criteria**
 - Personal Interview
 - Letter(s) of reference
 - Letter of acceptance from the educational program director
 - High school or college transcripts

Administration

Application procedures

- Applications are available at the following location:
 - Higley Unified School District High School Career Center Specialists
- Completed applications are to be postmarked no later than the first Friday in April
- Official High School Transcripts must accompany the application
- 2 letters of recommendation from a Higley Unified School District instructor or administrative staff member
- Winners will be notified by phone or mail on or about the 2nd Friday of May
- Awards to be disbursed directly to the college the recipient is or will be attending each semester

Selection Committee

- The scholarship selection committee will be comprised of Frankie Vandehei, Mark Swisher, and District Superintendent

Monitoring Student Progress

- Recipient must be a full-time student continually during the four years of the scholarship, starting with the first semester of the scholarship. If the recipient needs to suspend the scholarship, he/she must submit a letter that will be review by the scholarship committee.
- Recipient must maintain a 3.0 GPA or better to be eligible to renew the scholarship
 - A recipient may have their scholarship suspended if the minimum GPA is not maintained
 - A recipient may petition the suspension by submitting a letter to the Scholarship Committee
 - The scholarship may be terminated after the 2nd violation of the minimum GPA requirement
- Recipient must maintain a clear criminal history to retain the scholarship
- Recipient must provide official transcripts after each completed semester of study