

NASDME

The National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education

Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Migrant Scholarship

Application Guidelines

Purpose: To honor a migrant farmworker student-- preferably interested in pursuing a career in journalism, the teaching of journalism, or in political science. NASDME intends this scholarship to go to a mobile student or students who have attended more than one school in a year and/or who have traveled on their own or with a parent or guardian in pursuit of qualifying agricultural or agricultural-related work in the summer or regular school term. Students who have not moved will not be considered for this scholarship.

Eligibility: A selection committee will screen candidates on the basis of the following criteria:

- Recent history of movement for agricultural employment
- Academic achievement
- Financial need

Application Process: A completed application form must be submitted (postmarked) by Monday, **March 16, 2009** accompanied by:

- Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which must be from a school, community or educational agency representative with a personal knowledge of the applicant's character, personal qualities, and his/her academic achievement;
- A personal essay of at least 500 words telling about his/her background and career and personal goals, and indicating why he/she should receive this assistance;
- A copy of a high school or college transcript showing the most recent grades obtained;
- Proof of acceptance and/or enrollment at a post-secondary degree-granting institution;
- Financial need documentation in the form of a copy of the most recent school financial aid form and/or loan documentation; or other letter from an institution documenting financial aid;
- Proof of Migrant Education eligibility – (Attach a copy of a “Certificate of Eligibility” showing qualification during the past three calendar years or any time during high school). This can be obtained from a local school district through the migrant education staff.

Submit completed application packet to:

Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Migrant Scholarship
Angela Branz-Spall, Chair
Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620

SUBMISSION (POSTMARK) DEADLINE: March 16, 2009

Incomplete applications will not be considered. If there are no eligible candidates in any given year, the screening committee may elect not to give an award.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT'S SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ASKED TO PROVIDE TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR A CHAPERONE TO ACCOMPANY THE WINNER TO THE NATIONAL MIGRANT EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. THE AWARD WILL BE GIVEN DURING THE LARGE GENERAL SESSION IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF MAY 3, 2009.

Who was ALBERT LEE WRIGHT, Jr.?

For more than two decades, Al Wright, a native of Louisiana, served as Migrant Education's voice and as the program's quintessential advocate.

Long before e-mails and listserves, Al made sure that migrant educators and other farmworker advocates were kept informed about important national and state developments impacting migrant families through the nationally disseminated publication, MEMO – Migrant Education Messages and Outlook. Al used his remarkable talent as a journalist to portray to MEMO's readers the many challenges faced by farmworker families—this nation's poorest and most disadvantaged people. He was living proof of “the power of the pen.”

Al also served as Migrant Education's historian and archivist, as well as writing many of the National Association of State Directors for Migrant Education (NASDME) reauthorization position papers and developing much of NASDME's testimony to Congress on behalf of Migrant Education. He authored or co-wrote many articles for publication, including, “Children of the Road: Migrant Students, Our Nation's Most Mobile Population” commissioned by the Poverty and Race Research Action Council and published by Howard University. As a member of NASDME's Issues Committee, Al helped author a toolkit for the field entitled, “Giving Migrant Students an Opportunity to Learn.” Al co-authored an article entitled, “A History for Advocacy for Migrant Children and Their Families: More than 30 Years in the Field” for the book, Scholars in the Field, The Challenges of Migrant Education, published by ERIC.

Ensuring access to educational and supportive services for migrant children was a constant and recurrent theme of Al's work and one to which he remained true throughout his career. After his retirement from many years at the Louisiana Department of Education, Al stayed involved with the Migrant Education Program by accepting a job as NASDME's special projects and events coordinator. He skillfully staged several of the annual National Migrant Education Conferences, an event with thousands of participants from throughout the nation and the largest conference of its kind dedicated to the improvement of services to migrant children and their families.

Just as countless children's lives were improved because of Al's life-long work on their behalf, so too were the lives of hundreds of his colleagues across the country just by having known him. Though he was a man who used words fluidly on paper, in person Al Wright was a man of few words. But when he spoke, everyone listened. He was an eloquent, always rational speaker; an articulate debater; a true Southern gentleman – in the best sense of the phrase; and a man of the highest integrity and honesty who could not and would not tolerate injustice.

Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Migrant Scholarship

APPLICATION FORM

This form must be **submitted by March 16, 2009 with required documentation.** Failure to submit a completed application packet will result in disqualification. This application form may be photocopied. Neatly print or type.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Middle Initial: _____

Home Phone number: _____

Street/Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Name of school currently attending () Applicant school telephone number

School Address Anticipated date of graduation

Name of post-secondary institution to which you have been accepted if different Telephone number
than above (attach proof of acceptance)

FAMILY INCOME: In which bracket does your family income fall?

_____ 0-\$ 10,000 _____ \$10,001 - \$15,000 _____ \$ 15,001 - \$20,000 _____ \$ 20,001 - \$ 25,000

_____ \$25,001 - \$30,000 _____ \$ 30,001 - \$ 35,000 _____ \$ 35,001 +

Number of persons supported by this income: _____

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: PLEASE ITEMIZE AS SPECIFICALLY AS POSSIBLE

List all financial assistance approved and/or anticipated for the academic year including assistance from parents, loans, scholarships, work-study, TAP, etc.		Anticipated expenses for academic year
TYPE	AMOUNT	
		Tuition
		Books
		Housing
		Meals
		Transportation
		Other (please specify)

APPLICANT AGREES to the use of his/her name, photographs and information contained in this application (except for family income information) for educational, advertising, and promotional purposes for the Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Migrant Scholarship and migrant education programs, without further compensation or notification. The applicant further agrees to give permission to the post-secondary institution listed to release his/her educational and financial records to a representative of the Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Migrant Scholarship screening committee. **If selected for this scholarship, the awardee agrees to submit to NASDME at the conclusion of the academic year of the award, a copy of the official transcript from the chosen college or university.**

The information included on this form and in the application package is true and correct to the best of my knowledge as evidenced by these signatures.

 Applicant's Signature Date Parent's/Guardian's Signature Date

 Parent's/Guardian's Name (printed)

(If applicant is under 18 years of age)

Application Checklist

- Two letters of Reference
- Personal Essay
- Proof of Migrant Education Eligibility
- Proof of College Enrollment/Acceptance
- Financial Need Documentation
- Completed Application Form

APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY March 16, 2009

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