



Principal/ Counselor

To Whom it may Concern,

The Columbus Old School Educational Foundation Inc. (COSEF) is a non-profit (501 (c) (3) foundation that operates exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. COSEF has been in existence for thirteen (13) years. Because of our commitment to serve, we are asking high schools to help us identify qualified first-generation students who potentially could earn a \$1000.00 scholarship from our foundation for expenses at a (2) two or (4) four-year college

The details to qualify for the scholarship are listed below:

- Have transcript sent to the Foundation by his or her school
- If you are 18 or older, you must show proof that you are a registered voter
- Provide three (3) letters of recommendations (one must be from the school principal)
- Type or print neatly, a one-page essay about themselves explaining why he/she deserves this award and includes community involvement and future life goals (added: on a separate sheet of paper)
- Must submit a professional-looking headshot photo to be used for introducing scholarship recipients to the committee and donors. The photo should be clear, recent, and appropriate for professional settings.
- Submit the application and complete the scholarship requirements by March 31, 2026.
- Must be present/available to be interviewed in April 2026.
- If selected, must be present for the Scholarship Award Ball/ Ceremony (TBD)
- Commit to a two (2) or four (4) year institution of higher learning on or before your scholarship interview.
- If awarded, the student must utilize the award by 31 January of the year following the award date, otherwise, the scholarship will be voided.
- Every award is subject to revocation if, the holder fails to meet these requirements.
- Must show proof of acceptance at college of choice and a verified class attendance letter, before the check is issued.
- Must be a student from the Tri-City area, which includes Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Counties Georgia, and Russell County Alabama.
- Student must maintain a GPA 2.5 or higher

Sincerely,


Deborah Barthell

President - Columbus Old School Educational Foundation, INC

COLUMBUS OLD SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC

Scholarship Program

The awards process is highly competitive and recognizes outstanding first-generation students who plan to pursue a 2- or 4-year degree at an accredited college or university. Each student may receive an average one-time award of \$1,000. Please note that these scholarships are non-renewable and awarded for a single academic year. Importantly, all scholarships are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, disability, or national origin.

Eligibility Criteria

- Have a transcript mailed to the Foundation by the school.
- If you are 18 or older, you must show proof that you are a registered voter.
- Submit three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the school principal.
- Write a one-page essay about yourself, explaining why you deserve this award. Include your community involvement and future goals.
- Must submit a professional-looking headshot photo to be used for introducing scholarship recipients to the committee and donors. The photo should be clear, recent, and appropriate for professional settings. Email photo to cosefinc@gmail.com. Include in the subject of the email your "full name and "PHOTO FOR 2025-2026 SCHOLARSHIP".
- Submit the application and complete all requirements by March 31, 2026.
- Be available for an interview in April of 2026.
- If selected, attend the Scholarship Award Ceremony (TBD).
- Commit to attending a two- or four-year institution of higher learning by interview date.
- If awarded, utilize the scholarship by January 31st of the year following the award date; otherwise, the award will be voided.
- Recipients of our scholarship must validate their enrollment and physical attendance at a two- or four-year college, in the fall of the same year, to receive the check. (currently \$1000.00)
- Awards are subject to revocation if requirements are not met.
- Must be a student from the Tri-City area, which includes Muscogee and Chattahoochee Counties in Georgia and Russell County in Alabama.
- Parents must not be two- or four-year college graduates
- Maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Mail/Email the completed packets to the address at the bottom of this page.

Candidate Interviews

After the application forms are received, some candidates will be invited to an interview with the Scholarship Committee. Interviews will be held during the months of April 2026. Location and times for each interview will be provided before entering the competition. **Each applicant must participate in the interview process to be considered for the scholarship.**

Accessing The Scholarship Application

The Scholarship Application is available by emailing the Scholarship Committee at cosefinc@gmail.com to request the application be sent to your email. You can also check with your school Guidance Counselor to obtain the application packet.

EDUCATION THROUGH EXCELLENCE

COSEF 3100 Gentian Blvd, Suite 115, Columbus, GA 31907
COSEF EMAIL: cosefinc@gmail.com

Important Timelines

The Columbus Old School Educational Foundation has designated a five-month period from October to February in which applications are accepted for the current academic school year.

To be considered for a scholarship, all components of the application, to include all letters of recommendation and transcripts, must be completed and received in our office via postal mail/email by March 31, 2026. Mail applications and supporting documents to the following address:

COLUMBUS OLD SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
3100 Gentian Blvd, Suite 115
Columbus, Georgia 31907

***Please carefully review the eligibility criteria before completing the application package.**

TERMS OF ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance of an award obligates the recipient to:

- Maintain a high standard of work and conduct.
- Must be a first -generation student, meaning neither parent graduated from any college.
- Have transcripts sent to the foundation by his or her school to be added to the packet before March 31, 2026.
- Keep a close relationship with the foundation through correspondence and visits.
- Advise the foundation promptly of any change in his or her academic or financial situation.
- If awarded, the student must utilize the award by January 31st of the year following the award date. Otherwise, the award will be voided.
- Every award is subject to revocation if, in the opinion of the foundation, the holder fails to meet these requirements.
- Provide a student college acceptance letter, and a letter verifying class attendance, which must include the student's identification and number. This will allow the foundation to verify enrollment and physical attendance which is required to process payment of the scholarship award.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact the Scholarship Committee Chair if you have any questions.

Melvin Blackwell
706-289-7022
blackw_m@bellsouth.net

EDUCATION THROUGH EXCELLENCE

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COSEF EMAIL: cosefinc@gmail.com



FIRST - GENERATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2025-2026

The Columbus Old School Educational Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to empowering first-generation college students, ***meaning those whose parents did not graduate college***, through scholarships that help cover the costs of higher education. We focus on supporting graduating high school students from the Tri-City areas of Muscogee and Chattahoochee Counties in Georgia, as well as Russell County in Alabama. Our goal is to provide opportunities for students to pursue their dreams at either a two-year and four-year institution, ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder their educational aspirations.

Applicant's Name (Last/First/Middle Initial): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Student's Contact Phone Number: _____

Student's Email Address _____

Date to graduate from high school: _____

Name of High School: _____

High School G.P.A.: _____ minimum 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; if other scale, explain:

Description of extra-curricular activities. Specify offices held. (Typed or neatly printed on separate sheet)

School counselor/advisor who can verify completeness: _____

Phone number of counselor/advisors: _____



Describe your plans after graduation from high school (Use a separate typed or neatly printed separate sheet)

Description of your community involvement, community service or volunteer service (use a separate typed or neatly printed sheet):

Community leader who can verify community involvement:

Phone number of community leader providing verification: _____

Date to enter college: _____

Name of college or university: _____

Location of college or university named above: _____

Number of years of college completed (if any): _____

Anticipated professional/Career choice:



I have included a professional-like photograph to be used if I am selected as a scholarship recipient: Yes / No

I have signed and submitted the attached "Assignment of Rights & Consent to Publish Scholarship Information": Yes / No

Printed Name of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date

_____ I attest that my child is a first-generation student.

Printed Name of Parent/ Guardian

Signature of Parent

Date

Please submit a 3-to-5-hundred-word essay describing your career/life goals:
(Use separate typed or printed paper)



ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS & CONSENT TO PUBLISH SCHOLARSHIP
INFORMATION

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:

I, _____, do hereby grant the Columbus Old School Educational Foundation full rights to publish my name and where I live (city, state), my pertinent family information, the high school from which I am graduating or have graduated, academic information, the college I will be attending, photographs I have provided, and college update information; however, actual street address and phone number will not be disclosed.

I understand that if selected for this scholarship, verification from my college or university confirming my enrollment, and physical attendance in class must be provided before I am awarded scholarship. I will submit these documents as soon as possible, once my attendance, at college begins. Verification must be received, and the award presented to the student no later than January 31st of the following calendar year or the scholarship will be voided.

I understand that by execution of this agreement, I am relinquishing my rights to any future compensation for reproduction, publication or use of the above information by Columbus Old School Educational Foundation Inc. in its print or electronic publication or on its website.

I hereby specifically waive my right to review or approve the modification of the above information. Modifications may be made to accommodate size or content restrictions. Modifications will not be made to “distort” or “falsify” any information provided. I understand that this agreement in no way obligates Columbus Old School Educational Foundation Inc. to publish or use the above-described information. I further affirm that I am a first-generation student, in that neither of my parents completed a 2- or 4-year institution of higher learning.



Executed on the date of: _____

Applicant (Print name below):

Applicant's Signature

I/we attest to the above listed items as accurate and that I/we did not graduate from a College.

Parent 1 Name (Print). _____

Parent 1 Signature _____

Parent 2 Name (Print) _____

Parent 2 Signature _____

COSEF'S NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY:

Columbus Old School Educational Foundation, Inc. will not discriminate in any educational practice, educational program, or educational activity based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, or disability. COSEF's commitment to equal opportunity includes non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The President of the Board of Directors has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discriminatory policy and can be reached at (706) 570-9488.