

The mission of **embrace** Western New York is “*through education, all things are possible.*” The **embrace** Western New York **Education Scholarship** provides meaningful support to Western New Yorkers who choose to attend post-secondary education/ training within the region. Applicants may be eligible for a scholarship up to \$2,000. Scholarships will be made available to the recipients after verification of acceptance and enrollment in a recognized post-secondary program. **Students may reapply once per academic year.**

Qualifications:

Scholarships will only be awarded to applicants who are enrolling in post-secondary education at an institution in Western New York (defined as one of the eight western counties of New York State). In addition, applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- earned high school degree/GED, preferably in Western New York
- be currently enrolled in a Western New York trade school, certification program, college or university.

The ideal candidate for **embrace** Western New York **Education Scholarship** will be someone who:

- is passionate about LGBTQ+ issues and/or has a demonstrated commitment to promoting social justice for the LGBTQ+ community (i.e., acceptance and inclusion) in facets of their daily experience (i.e. school, work, church, etc.);
- has overcome (or is trying to overcome) great obstacles and/or extenuating circumstances in their life directly related to their sexual orientation, gender identity or ally status;
- and/or has dedicated and/or specialized their craft, experience or expertise to provide valuable specialized services for the local LGBTQ+ and allies community out of a passion for its betterment.

Process:

- ❖ Interested applicants will complete and return the **embrace** Western New York **Education Scholarship** application.
- ❖ There is no deadline for application submission (rolling review process).
- ❖ Applicants will return **completed application with two (2) letters of recommendation** (non-family members). Letters of recommendation must contain contact information for the person writing the recommendation. An application will not be considered without letters of recommendation.
- ❖ A copy of the most recent high school, post-secondary school or college transcript must accompany the application.
- ❖ The selection committee will be comprised of the members of Board members of **embrace** Western New York.

*Please contact **embrace** Western New York for additional information.*

3/2020

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Recommendations should be in-depth to help the Board when reviewing the application. Observations or specific involvements/programs/projects should be included.

Letter of Recommendation (1) submitted by:

Name (1): _____

Position/title (1): _____

Phone Number (1): _____ Email Address: _____

Letter of Recommendation (2) submitted by:

Name (2): _____

Position/title (2): _____

Phone Number (2): _____ Email Address: _____

Short Answer *(use complete sentences when appropriate):*

1) Where will you be enrolled in post-secondary education/trade school next semester?
Institution: _____ New student Returning student

2) What high school did you graduate from? _____

3) Graduation Year or earned GED (month/year): ___ / ___ - ___ - ___

4) Do you plan to live/ work in Western New York after graduation? Yes No

5) What will you be going to school for and what are your professional/career plans?

6) Have you participated in a gay/straight alliance? Yes No

i. If no, please describe what stopped you from doing so:

7) Have you ever participated in an LGBTQ+/ally organization outside of school (i.e., church, community organization, etc.)? Yes No

i. If yes, please list the organization(s) you participated in:

If no, please describe what has stopped you from doing so:

8) If you are awarded an **embrace Western New York Education Scholarship**, would you be able/willing to volunteer for/participate in the **Buffalo Brunch**, our premiere fundraising event? Tasks may involve phone calls, visiting local businesses, stuffing envelopes, etc. Yes No

i. If no, please explain why:

9) If you are awarded an **Education Scholarship**, are you willing to allow **embrace Western New York** to use your name and likeness to publicly promote and market our organization? Yes No

i. If no, please explain why:

Long Answer (*use complete sentences*):

QUESTION 1 (*max: 750 words*):

Based on the pathways to scholarship described under “Qualifications,” describe why you think you are an ideal candidate for an **embrace Western New York Education Scholarship**. Your response should *fully answer one or more of the questions* below in full detail:

- A. How have you demonstrated a commitment to promoting social justice for LGBTQ+ persons (i.e., acceptance and inclusion) in facets of your daily experience (school, work, family, church, etc.)?
- B. What LGBTQ+ issues are of the most importance to you and what do you believe you can bring to the table in advancing those issues?
- C. How has your commitment to these issues impacted you, your friends, your family and your community?
- D. What obstacles or extenuating circumstances in life have you overcome (or are you trying to overcome) that directly relate to your sexual orientation, gender identity or ally status, and what role will completing your education play in meeting your full potential?
- E. How have you honed your craft, experience or expertise to provide valuable specialized services for the local LGBTQ+ community and what drives your commitment to the betterment of the community?

QUESTION 2 (*max: 750 words*):

Going forward, in what ways do you plan to continue, or begin, demonstrating a commitment to advancing LGBTQ+ issues, promoting social justice and/or using your expertise to serve the local LGBTQ+ community?