To: NRCSA Member Schools

Re: NRCSA Para to Teacher/Transitional Scholarships

The NRCSA Executive Committee has given approval for the creation of a scholarship program that will provide opportunities for two programs that are helping to alleviate the teacher shortage in rural schools: (1) a “Para to Teacher” program such as those offered by Chadron State, Peru State and Wayne State, and (2) a transitional program in which a candidate is employed as a teacher while working to attain his/her teaching certification in a program such as that offered by the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The colleges or universities attended must be within Nebraska. Candidates must be currently employed by an NRCSA-member school district or ESU. Accompanying this mailing are the forms and the guidelines for applying for these scholarships.

Three scholarships will be awarded for the fall semester and three scholarships for the spring semester each year. Candidates may be eligible for one scholarship in each semester in a given year, but must make separate applications.

The application forms may be accessed on the NRCSA website (www.nrcsa.net). Forms are to be filled out and submitted electronically.

Scholarship funds will be administered through the Lincoln Community Foundation, Inc.

Respectfully Yours,



Jack Moles, Executive Director, NRCSA

**SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

1. The application form will be made available on the NRCSA web-site (www.nrcsa.net). The school may reproduce the form in the quantity necessary for candidate distribution.
2. Applicant must attend a four-year public or private college or university in Nebraska that is listed as a nonprofit school under 501-C Rules of the IRS.
3. Applicant must be currently employed by a NRCSA-member school district or ESU.
4. Applicant must be enrolled in one of two types of programs that will lead to teacher certification:
   1. (1) a “Para to Teacher” program such as those offered by Chadron State, Peru State and Wayne State, **OR**
   2. (2) a transitional program in which a candidate with a college degree is employed as a teacher while working to attain his/her teaching certification in a program such as that offered by the University of Nebraska-Kearney.
5. Selection will be based on the following criteria: applicant goals, financial need, character, initiative and school/community involvement.
6. APPLICANT MUST BE PLANNING TO ENTER THE FIELD OF EDUCATION (I.E. TEACHER, MEDIA SPECIALIST, COUNSELOR, ETC.)
7. A total of three (3) $1,000.00 scholarships will be awarded.
8. Application **must** include a letter of recommendation from either the Superintendent, Principal, or ESU Administrator from the district or ESU in which the applicant is currently employed. Letter of recommendation must contain the following:
   1. Information about the applicant’s character, initiative, and school/community involvement.
   2. A statement from the administrator certifying that the applicant is enrolled in a course that meets the requirements in #4 above.
9. The completed application and letter of recommendation must be submitted in one email by the applicant.  Scan, then email the completed application, along with the administrator recommendation, on or before **Friday, April 25, 2025** to:

**Tim Heckenlively**

[**theckenlively@fallscityps.org**](mailto:theckenlively@fallscityps.org)

1. Scholarship decisions will be made by NRCSA and scholarship checks will be sent directly to the applicant's college or university. Applicants will be required to provide evidence of registration before funds will be sent.
2. The applicant must meet all of the above basic requirements or the application will be rejected.
3. The application form maybe electronically reproduced.
4. The form may be completed and submitted electronically.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION: PARA TO TEACHER & TRANSITION TO TEACHING**

**Applicant Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant’s Full Name: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant’s Present Address: |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| City: |  | State: |  | Zip: |  | Phone: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant’s e-mail Address: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant’s School District or ESU: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| District/ESU Address: |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dist/ESU City: |  | Dist/ESU Zip: |  | Dist/ESU Phone: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant’s Current Position in District or ESU: |  |

**Plan of Study**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of College or University: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Address of Financial Aid Office: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Teaching Endorsement Sought:: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3. Has the Applicant Been Accepted for Admission: |  |

If not, explain status (the table will expand as you type):

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Education**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Name of High School: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2. College(s) Attended: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3. College Hours Attained to Date: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Current Date: |  |

**COMMUNITY & SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT**

Please describe your involvement in community and school activities.  (the table will expand as you type).

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**APPLICANT STATEMENT**

(100 – 500 words) state below why you deserve this scholarship (the table will expand as you type).  In this statement, please specifically address the following (the table will expand as you type).:

* Why are you pursuing a teaching degree/certification?
* What are your professional goals?
* Is there a financial hardship that this scholarship would help to alleviate?

|  |
| --- |
|  |