



2019 Scholarship Information & Guidelines

PFLAG's mission to move equality forward in Nevada County is to unite parents, families, friends and allies with LGBTQ people. Our goal is to support justice and equality for LGBTQ persons and community. The scholarship program is designed (1) to recognize outstanding LGBTQ and Ally students whose personal qualities and actions are consistent with PFLAG's mission and goal and (2) to encourage and support LGBTQ and Ally students in furthering their educational goals and careers.

Eligibility

- On track to graduate by June 2019 from a recognized secondary school in Nevada County.
- Has applied, or intends applying, to enter higher education (college, university, or a trade/technical school) by fall 2019.

Application Requirements

- Copy of current high school **transcript** or equivalent document
- Three **letters of recommendation** - one from a high school teacher or staff member, and two from unrelated adult friends or members of the community. Letters must include writers' name, phone number, and relationship to the applicant.
- **Personal Statement** - 250 words (minimum) to 500 words (maximum); typewritten; double-spaced. Please use the form in the district application materials.
 - Focus on **what you have done and plan to do** to support justice and equality for LGBTQ persons and community.
 - Be specific. Your statement should include but not be limited to your vocational/career goals, experiences at school, your interests and hobbies, and extra-curricular activities.
- **Essay** - See description attached to this document.

Scholarship Awards

Two scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded. Proof of acceptance and enrollment in a college, university, or trade/technical school will be required prior to the disbursement of funds. The two recipients and their parents will be honored at a special dinner hosted by PFLAG in early June.

Application Process

Follow the district guidelines for submitting an application.

Essay

Student must submit a **1,000 word or less, typed, double-spaced essay** on the prompt below taking into account questions 1 – 3.

Starting college can be stressful for all students. The course work may be more difficult than a student has encountered in high school. The setting may be new and unfamiliar. Many colleges, universities, and technical schools are in cities with all of the challenges and opportunities that cities have to offer. They may be in different parts of the country with laws and customs that are unfamiliar. Students often are unfamiliar with the campus. These stresses can be even more challenging for LGBTQ students. How open will the faculty and administration be to their sexual or gender orientation? Will there be groups in which they can meet one another in a relaxed, friendly environment? Can they find outside resources that will answer their questions, offer guidance, and become an important support system? The purpose of this essay is to encourage you to find answers to these questions, whether you identify as LGBTQ or are an ally. Our intent is to guide you to finding helpful information that can prepare you to approach college empowered to confidently greet your new life.

Below, we ask specific questions and offer suggestions for how you could find the information to answer them. To prepare for writing your essay, **we request that you choose one of the colleges, universities, or technical schools that you are considering.** You will want to be sure that you can easily access its website. In your essay, please address all the questions, using this college, university, or technical school. **Be sure to support your answers throughout with specific details.**

1. Would an LGBTQ student feel comfortable and supported at this college, university, or technical school? Search the website for any purpose statements or other descriptions of campus life that are either reassuring or cause you to question whether this would be the best place for you.
2. How would the university respond to any problems that arise for LGBTQ students? Search both for relevant statements and departments set up to support LGBTQ students and address their concerns.
3. How well does the wider community support and accept the LGBTQ community? Check state laws and local ordinances. Scan news stories and newspaper editorials for evidence of this support or lack thereof. Use of the Internet will be crucial in finding the answers to this question.
4. Conclude with explaining why you now believe this would or would not be the best place for you.