2015-2016

Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

WTS fosters the development of women in the transportation field by encouraging bright new professionals to undertake careers in the area of transportation. One way it does this is by awarding the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship to women pursuing undergraduate studies in transportation or a related field.

The scholarship honors Sharon D. Banks, chief executive officer of AC Transit in Alameda-Contra Costa County, California. As its CEO throughout most of the 1990’s, Sharon led the agency in a pioneering effort to introduce cultural and organizational changes aimed at motivating the public-transit work force. She was a member of the WTS Advisory Board and received the WTS San Francisco Chapter Woman of the Year and Employer of the Year awards.

The Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship through the Greater Chicago Chapter is $3,000. The winner of the Greater Chicago Chapter scholarship will be nominated for the WTS International Foundation scholarship of $5,000. The minimum criteria for selection are:

a. GPA of 3.0 or higher.
b. Currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in a transportation-related field, such as transportation engineering, planning, finance, or logistics in Illinois, Indiana or Iowa.
c. Plans to pursue a career in a transportation-related field.

Applications must be submitted through local WTS chapters as typed Word documents. Scholarships are competitive and based on the applicant's specific transportation goals, academic record, and transportation-related activities or job skills. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Chicago chapter awards will be presented at the annual awards event to be held in Chicago, IL in the Spring of 2016. National awards will be presented on May 19, 2016 at the annual WTS International Conference in Austin, TX. If selected for a scholarship, attendance at the awards event is strongly recommended. Please contact your local WTS chapter at the address listed below for specifics.

Questions may be sent via e-mail to WTSChicago.Scholarship@gmail.com.

Word versions of the application form may be downloaded from http://www.wtsinternational.org/greaterchicago/scholarships/

Completed applications must be received by your local chapter no later than Friday, October 30, 2015.
Submittal Instructions & Checklists

The requested documents are to be e-mailed and a complete package is to be mailed following the instructions below.

E-mail: WTSCheicago.Scholarship@gmail.com:

Subject Line: “Last Name – Scholarship Name” (ie. “Smith-Banks Scholarship”)

Documents to Include:
☐ 1. Application Form (Word document)
☐ 2. Personal Statement (Word document)
☐ 3. Proof of Enrollment (PDF document)
☐ 4. Resume (optional)

E-mail must be received by 11:59pm CT, October 30, 2015.

- AND -

Mail: A single application package including the following documents is preferred. If any documents will be arriving separately please let us know this in your email submission.

Address:

Carrie Desmond
WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff
WTS Greater Chicago Scholarship Committee Chair
30 N. LaSalle Street Suite 4200
Chicago, IL 60602

Documents to Include:
☐ 1. Signed Application Form
☐ 2. Official Transcript
☐ 3. Recommendation Letter(s) (Submit in a signed, sealed envelope)
☐ 4. Personal Statement
☐ 5. Proof of Enrollment
☐ 6. Resume (optional)

Packages must be received by October 30, 2015.
Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Who do I contact with questions?
A: Questions can be e-mailed to WTSChicago.Scholarship@gmail.com

Q: Can I e-mail my application?
A: See the submittal instructions on page two of the application packet. Select documents are to be submitted via email with a complete package submitted via mail.

Q: Can I apply for more than one scholarship?
A: Yes. You can apply for all scholarships for which you meet the minimum criteria for selection that are included on page one of the application packet.

Q: What should I include for my transcript if this is my first semester?
A: Include your high school transcript.

Q: Can I use my student ID as proof of enrollment?
A: No. Examples of proof of enrollment include an official listing of courses which you are currently enrolled in or a tuition receipt for the current semester.

Q: Are international students eligible to apply?
A: Yes. International students are eligible and encouraged to apply. Students must be attending a school in Illinois, Iowa or Indiana to be eligible for an undergraduate scholarship from the Greater Chicago Chapter.

Q: Are “dreamers” eligible to apply?
A: Yes. “Dreamers” (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act) are eligible to apply.

Q: When will I be notified if I have been selected for the scholarship award?
A: Students are typically notified if they have been selected for the Greater Chicago Chapter Award in January. Winners of the local chapter award are nominated for the International Foundation award. Students are typically notified if they have been selected for the International Foundation award in March.

Q: Can I apply for a scholarship if I have applied in previous years?
A: Yes.

Q: Can I apply for a scholarship if I am a past recipient?
A: Yes.
I. Personal Information

Name

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Student E-mail address

Permanent E-mail address

Primary Phone (___)

Current Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

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Permanent Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

II. Educational Background

Current College/University _______________________ City, State __________

Expected Date of Graduation _________ Degree to be Received __________

Area of Concentration ____________________________

Grade Point Average ________________

(Minimum GPA of 3.0 required. Attach official copy of transcript to application.)

Previous Colleges/Universities Attended, Date Degree Earned and GPA:

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Professional or School Affiliations (List any school, professional or community activities you have participated in. Include offices held and awards received. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as typed word documents.)

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III. Employment History

Work Experience (List full-time, part-time, co-op and summer employment. Briefly describe duties and responsibilities. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as typed word documents.)

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IV. Recommendation: Letter of recommendation by a professor or job supervisor must accompany your application.

V. Personal Statement: A statement about your career goals after graduation and why you think that you should receive the scholarship award. Applicants must address the issue of leadership, its importance in a transportation career, and the applicant’s leadership achievements. Statement should not exceed 500 words or two pages. Please attach to application form as a typed word document.

VI. Proof of Enrollment: Attach a copy of your tuition receipt or current course registration.

VII. Resume (optional): If you would like your resume forwarded to companies in the Chicago area for potential internship or full-time opportunities, please include a copy with your application. Please note on your resume your anticipated graduation date and if you are looking for an internship or full-time position.

Applicant Signature ____________________________ Date __________________