

The Ethel Curry American Indian Leadership Scholarship

The Ethel Curry American Indian Leadership Scholarship (ECS) is an annual award administered by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Office of Indian Education. This scholarship is meant to aid American Indian students in their pursuit of higher education opportunities. Awards generally range from \$1000-\$4000 per academic year, but may vary.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe.
- Be enrolled in an accredited tribal, public, or private college or university in the state of Minnesota.
- Be enrolled for a minimum of six credits.

Additionally:

- Undergraduate applicants must have at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA on their educational transcripts.
- Graduate applicants must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA on their educational transcripts.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate leadership qualities within the American Indian community.
- Individuals related to an MDE employee are not eligible to apply.

Applicant Submissions Must Include the Following:

- **A fully filled out application.** Please type or print legibly.
- **Unofficial school transcripts.** Transcripts must reflect your career cumulative GPA from all attempted postsecondary credits. This includes PSEO credits and transfer credits from previously attended institutions.
- **Proof of your enrollment in a federally recognized tribe.** We accept copies of enrollment papers as well as tribal IDs. If either item reflects a name that you no longer legally use, proof of the name change may be requested.
- **A 350-400 word essay.** Essays should express your educational goals, professional goals, and the impact you want to have within the American Indian community at large.
- **One academic letter of reference.** This letter must reflect your academic performance, leadership activities, and connection to the American Indian community. Academic letters should be typed and signed.
- **One personal letter of reference.** This letter must speak to your character, your leadership qualities, your connection to the American Indian community, and your community involvement. Personal letters should be typed or written legibly, and signed.

Submission Guidelines

- Applications are accepted March 1 - May 31.
- Submissions must include all of the required items as outlined above.
- All required items must be submitted together.
- Incomplete applications are not considered.

Submit Items by Email to:

Kristen.Aeikens@state.mn.us

Submit Items by Mail to:

Minnesota Department of Education
Office of Indian Education
Attn: Kristen Aeikens
1500 W. Hwy. 36
Roseville, MN 55113

Award Notification:

Scholarship recipients will receive notification of an award by August 10.

Program Contact:

Kristen Aeikens
American Indian Education Program Coordinator
651-582-8558 | Kristen.Aeikens@state.mn.us

The Ethel Curry American Indian Leadership Scholarship Application

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name - First, Middle, Last _____

Date of Birth _____

Primary Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Primary Telephone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Tribe of Enrollment _____

B. POSTSECONDARY/EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Postsecondary School Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Will you be an undergraduate student or a graduate school student? _____

Will you be a part-time (6-11 credits) or full-time (12 or more credits) student? _____

What class level will you be this fall? Please select one.

Freshman

Sophomore

Junior

Senior

Graduate Student Year 1

Graduate Student Year 2

Graduate Student Year 3 or above

Major _____

Anticipated Certificate/Degree _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) _____

Anticipated Month and Year of Graduation _____

C. APPLICANT STATEMENT

By signing below, I certify that the information provided to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I am not related to, or a family member of, any MDE employee. I understand that this scholarship is annual and competitive, and that the completion of this application is not a guarantee of funding.

Applicant Signature/Date _____

About Ethel Curry

Ethel Curry was born in Hixton, Wisconsin, in 1888. In 1914, she graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in mathematics and biology. Post-graduation, Ms. Curry was accepted into two medical schools, but due to her health, she was not able to attend either institution. She instead spent nearly 40 years working as a surgical secretary at the esteemed Mayo Clinic.

According to her niece, Jeanne Angel, Ms. Curry lived simply and frugally, without television or telephone. She was a lifelong scholar with a lively, inquiring mind and an independent spirit, and she was a warm and sociable person who held a deep compassion for American Indian people. Her tremendous wealth was attained through investments in Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M).

Ms. Curry died in 1995 at the age of 107. It is due to her extreme generosity that the Minnesota Department of Education is able to provide this valuable scholarship opportunity to American Indian students.



Ethel Curry, 1888-1995