



### *STEM Scholarship 2024*

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR), located in Danville, VA, is an organization committed to the economic transformation of southern Virginia. Since 2005, the IALR has been focused on a research and innovation agenda directed at economic development and diversifying the skill base of our citizens to include strengthening STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) knowledge. IALR has established research centers in precision agriculture, natural products and high value horticulture to assist in its economic transformation mission. The Institute, through its Advanced Manufacturing and Economic Development divisions, supports manufacturing companies as they look to locate or expand operations in southern Virginia. The success of these efforts is dependent upon the region’s ability to invest in education and the entrepreneurial potential of its youth.

IALR will award up to sixteen STEM Scholarships to eight school divisions, each in the amount of \$1,000. The scholarship is intended to support a graduating senior who expresses a desire to continue her or his education, specifically in the areas of science, technology, engineering and/or math. The scholarship is offered through the IALR Foundation.

#### **Award Requirements**

1. Student must be a senior, graduating by June 2024.
2. Student must be an eligible Graduate of Merit recipient for Pittsylvania County Schools.
3. Student plans to attend a two-year or four-year college or university.
4. Student plans to major in a science (includes health), technology, engineering or math field.

#### **Application Process**

1. Complete this cover sheet (information below).
2. Complete the attached application form and essays.
3. Request one letter of recommendation from a science, technology, engineering or math teacher who can speak to your interest and talent in this area (template pg. 3). This letter should **specifically** address your STEM skills and interests. *Form letters will receive fewer points.*
4. A school counselor will complete the bottom portion of the application form noting your class rank (if applicable), overall GPA, and number of high school STEM courses.
5. Cover sheet, application form, essays and letter of recommendation must be submitted to your school counselor by **March 19, 2024**.

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Month: \_\_\_\_\_ (matching purposes only)

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (assigned by IALR)



*STEM Scholarship Application Form 2024*

Applicant Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
To be assigned by IALR staff.

I have applied/been accepted to the following college(s) or university(s): Please place as asterisk (\*) by the college you plan to attend.

_____	<input type="checkbox"/> APPLIED	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> APPLIED	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> APPLIED	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> APPLIED	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED

***Please respond to the following essay questions. It is expected that you will write three well-developed paragraphs per question; limit of 300 words per question (attach a separate sheet):***

1. Discuss your educational and career aspirations as they relate to the science, technology, engineering and/or math (STEM) fields.
2. Describe a specific past learning experience or opportunity that stimulated your interest in STEM and influenced your decision to pursue a STEM career.
3. What *three factors* would influence your decision to remain in or return to southern Virginia once you complete this next phase of your education (i.e. what could our region do better to make southern Virginia a place where you choose to live, work and play)?

*To be completed by School Counselor:*

Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_ Overall GPA (note if weighted/unweighted): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of high school science, technology, engineering, and math units/courses: \_\_\_\_\_  
(9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name Here: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Counselor



**IALR STEM SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Teacher Recommendation Form*

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Please comment on the student's interest, talent and ability in the STEM disciplines. In your opinion, why is this student deserving of the scholarship? How would you compare this student to his/her peers? Note: generic form letters will receive fewer points. (*attach a separate sheet if necessary; place in a sealed envelope with signature over seal*)

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_