

Mike Chang Sunshine Scholarship Program Overview & Guidelines

Background

This \$500 scholarship is offered in memory Mike Chang, a 1995 graduate of Hammond High School. Mike's combination of zany humor and genuine compassion left a strong impression on those who knew him. The Columbia native had "a heart of gold", always lent a sympathetic ear and built his life around helping others. He led a life filled with friends and family.

Mike was a county and regional wrestling champion and was inducted into the Hammond Wrestling Hall of Fame. His classmates elected him Hammond's senior prom king. He excelled in many areas and graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in studio art. He worked as a certified personal trainer in California while founding the Verge magazine. His career goal before his death in a motorcycle accident was to become a professional stunt man.

The Mike Chang Sunshine Fund was established by the family and numerous lifelong friends, who all agree he brought "sunshine" to their lives.

Guidelines

Candidates for the *Mike Chang Sunshine Scholarship* **must:**

1. Plan to attend a two- or four-year college/university or trade school.
2. Respond with care and concern towards the needs of others and have the ability to bring humor to the serious business of life.
3. Submit an essay of no more than 500 words that covers the following topics:
 - a. Educational and career plans
 - b. Indicate the value of humor and service in their lives.

Please do not include information present in your transcripts or your resume. We are looking for examples drawn from your life experience.

4. Submit a resume
5. Provide one personal letter of recommendation.
6. Include the check list from one academic teacher and/or employment supervisor.
7. Have a 3.0 cumulative average through Grade 11. In addition, a grade of 3.0 must be maintained through the first semester of Grade 12.
8. Be accepted at an accredited institution.
9. A committee of composed of teaching and guidance counselor staff will select the recipient of the scholarship.

Evaluation Criteria

All applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Confidential teacher evaluation.
2. Student activities that demonstrate humor and caring for others.
3. Strength of student's transcript.
4. Financial need will be used in case of a tie.

DEADLINE: **Applications must be submitted to the school guidance counselor by _____.**