



# RIITA

Rural Iowa Independent Telephone Association

# Scholarship Program 2012

Application Deadline: March 15

The Rural Iowa Independent Telephone Association (RIITA) is pleased to announce the availability of a \$2,500 college scholarship to high school seniors or students currently enrolled in an institution of higher learning. The purpose of this support is to aid students from rural areas across Iowa with financial assistance to pursue higher education.

### ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Be a graduating high school senior or current student enrolled in an institution of higher learning;
- Be accepted/or be enrolled by an accredited two or four-year college/university or vocational school;
- Receive any local telecommunication service from a RIITA member and be from a rural area;
- Have at least a C grade point average;
- Express an interest to live and work in a rural community following graduation; and
- Be sponsored by your local telecommunication service provider [*contact your provider to determine if they are a RIITA member*].

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- The application can be accessed online at [www.riita.com](http://www.riita.com) and then completed (preferred) or type or print all requested information.
- Complete the scholarship application in full. If any information is incomplete, the application will not be considered.
- Prepare a 300-word essay on one of the following topics:
  - Describe your most significant accomplishment and explain why you believe it exemplifies you as an individual.
  - What industry or opportunity would entice you to return to a rural community after completing your education, and why?
  - If you were to return to rural Iowa, what changes and opportunities would you like to see happen within your community? How would you contribute to this change?
  - Describe the community in which you live and indicate how it has influenced the person you are.
- Have an educator complete the Educator's Statement. Statements **must** be submitted in a sealed envelope from the author.
- Submit one letter of recommendation from a local community leader. Letters of recommendation **must** be submitted in a sealed envelope from the author.
- Include your most recent grade transcript with social security number blackened out, except the last 4 digits (all semesters must be represented).
- Have the general manager of the local telecommunication provider endorse your application.
- Do not include any photographs with your application.
- All signatures **must** be provided where indicated on the application.
- All materials, along with the recommendation letters, **must** be submitted together.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- One (1) \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded annually.
- All applications will be reviewed and the winner selected by a Selection Committee appointed by the RIITA President and Executive Director.
- Scholarships will be awarded on a one-time basis, with recipients of the scholarship ineligible for future awards.

Awards will be paid once an official transcript at the completion of the first semester is submitted to RIITA. Funds will be sent directly to the school in the student's name.

- Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender or disability.
- Incomplete applications will be not be considered. Refer to the checklist on the application form to ensure that all components of the application have been fulfilled.
- The winner will forfeit the scholarship if the mandatory transcript is not received by RIITA within 60 days of completing the first semester of school.
- The winner will be selected by May 1.



# Application Checklist

1. Completed application form
  2. Transcript
  3. 300-word essay
  4. Educator's Statement (sealed in envelope)
  5. Letter of recommendation (sealed in envelope)
  6. Sponsor signature from RIITA member
- ✓ Submit all materials together
  - ✓ Postmarked to RIITA by March 15, 2012

Mail your completed application and attachments to:

**Selection Committee**  
**Rural Iowa Independent Telephone Association**  
**100 Court Avenue, Suite 218**  
**Des Moines, IA 50309**

*Applications must be postmarked to RIITA by March 15, 2012.*

For questions or additional assistance, contact:

**Sheila Navis, Executive Director**

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515.243.1743 or visit

www.riita.com

  
**RIITA**  
**Rural Iowa Independent Telephone Association**