

Bill Tomlin Scholarship

This award was established by the Arkansas Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AR-AER) to honor the memory of long time AR-AER member and past-president, Bill Tomlin. A monetary award will be made each year to a deserving individual who is blind or visually impaired. This individual must be enrolled in a post-secondary educational or vocational training program for the 2019-2020 school year. This award is open to high school seniors as well as students currently enrolled in a post-secondary educational or vocational training program. Funds will be awarded for the purchase of textbooks, specialized materials or adaptive equipment. The award this year will be in the amount of \$1,000.

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify for this award, applicants must be:

- identified as being legally blind or visually impaired
- enrolled or planning to enroll in a post-secondary or educational program
- a legal resident of the state of Arkansas

Please submit a signed application with required supporting documents to the scholarship committee by Friday, May 3, 2019. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Supporting Documentation:

1. References: Two letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, pastor, or personal mentor who has taken part in your education and growth. Family members and friends will not be considered as valid references.
2. Personal Narrative: Include a 500 to 750-word essay listing your goals, perceived strengths and needs, hobbies, honors, extracurricular activities, achievements, etc. If you have decided upon a field of study or area of training, indicate why you are interested and your reasons for choosing that specific field of endeavor.
3. Transcript: An official transcript of your grades from the school you are currently attending or have most recently attended, if applicable.
4. Video Submission: All applicants must submit a video. The video should be no longer than 3 minutes in length, and should provide us with information on how you intend to use the Tomlin scholarship to further your educational goals. You may use services like YouTube to send us your video, but the video must be created by you. Students without enough vision to use a video camera should ask a friend or parent to help them. Videos may be taken with a webcam, cellphone, or video camera.

Electronic files may be emailed to eelam@wsblind.org. Please specify the applicant's name and the type of documentation in the subject line of the e-mail. (Example: Subj: John Smith Letter of Recommendation.) You may use services like Google Drive, One Drive, or Dropbox to submit your application files if you ensure that the files are correctly uploaded. Electronic applications are preferred. All documentation should be clearly labeled and submitted by the applicant—not the applicant's guardian, parent, or teacher.

Paper documentation should be mailed to:
Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
c/o Stephanie Smith, AR-AER Awards Committee
2600 W Markham St.
Little Rock, AR 72205

Award Notification

The scholarship recipient will be notified of the award by email.

Public announcement and acceptance of the award may take place at high school graduation or awards assembly if applicable.

It is expected that the winner attend the AERBVI awards luncheon in Little Rock on September 21, 2019 to be recognized for their achievement. In the event of a winner being unable to attend the luncheon, the winner's application video will be played during the awards ceremony.

Proof of enrollment from applicant's choice of post-secondary training site is required before the monetary award will be made.

Monetary awards will be made by AR- AERBVI directly to the post-secondary educational or training facility indicated by the applicant. Awards may also be paid directly to specified vendors or agencies for the purchase of adaptive equipment. This scholarship must be used one year from the date it was awarded. For an extension to be considered, a written request must be received by the AERBVI board prior to the expiration of the scholarship. Past winners may not reapply.

Bill Tomlin Scholarship Application

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Method of Reading (check all that apply):

Braille Recordings Large Print

Regular Print Live Readers Other

If other, please explain: _____

Most recent school or training facility attended:

Address: _____

Proposed Field of Study: _____

Post-Secondary Institution: _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average, if applicable: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____