Sheldon Chamber and Development Homecoming Scholarship Guidelines

Purpose:
Talented workforce recruitment and attainment has become a strategic priority for the Sheldon Chamber and Development Corporation (SCDC) and O'Brien County Economic Development (OBCED), and in response we have created a grant program to recruit our area's top talent back to Sheldon. We recognize that Sheldon has educated many qualified individuals over the years who have gone on and furthered their education. Additionally, our local employers have many high-quality jobs available, with great pay and benefits, for those highly qualified individuals to pursue. Our goal with this program is to do what we can to encourage those former students, and now recent college graduates, to consider coming back, making Sheldon their home and filling the high-quality jobs available locally.

Award:
- SCDC & OBCED are partnering together to award (2) $6,000 scholarships to eligible applicants in 2019.
- Grant winners will be able to use the scholarship dollars for student loan debt payments over the next 4 years. All grant payments will be paid directly to the lender by the Sheldon Chamber and Development Corporation.

To be Eligible You Must:
- Have lived in the 51201-zip code when the applicant graduated from an area high school or be the spouse of a student who lived in the 51201 zip-code upon graduation from High School.
- Have or will graduate from a two or a four-year college in 2017, 2018, 2019.
- Have accepted an offer for a position in Sheldon.
- Live within the City Limits of Sheldon.
- Have student loan debt more than $6,000.

Scholarship Application Process:
- Applicant will need to complete the scholarship application and submit additional requested materials including resume, temporary transcript, and proof of student loan amount.
- Scholarship finalists will have a face-to-face or skype interview with the Homecoming Scholarship Advisory Board.

Timeline:
- Scholarship applications are due by March 1.
- Scholarship application review will take place between March 1 and March 15.
- Scholarships will be awarded by April 30.

Sheldon Chamber and Development Homecoming Scholarship Application

Applicant Information

Name: _____ Date: _____

Current Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

Years Lived in Sheldon: From _____ To: _____

High School Attended: _____ Graduation Date from High School: _____

College/Vocational School Attending/Attended: _____

Graduation/Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Do you have $6,000 or more in Student Loan Debt? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If awarded scholarship, proof of student loan amount will be required)

Please list your current job and/or future career plans:

_____

_____

_____

Please share below any current or previous volunteer experience(s) that you have been involved with:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please answer the following questions using 1-3 short paragraphs per question (please include a separate typed document with your responses):

1. How did Sheldon shape you?
2. What is drawing you back to live in Sheldon?
3. What way do you envision yourself impacting and being involved in the community?
4. What in Sheldon had the biggest impact in your life?
5. If you were asked to create a "wish list" for Sheldon, what might be included on that list? Please share a few of your visions for what could be improved or added to enhance or benefit our community.

Along with completed application, please include the following:
1. Resume
2. Unofficial Transcript (if awarded a scholarship, a copy of an official final transcript or copy of diploma will be required)

Return all information by **March 1, 2019** to Curt Strouth, Community Development Director, 416 9th Street, Sheldon, IA 51201 or e-mail to cstrouth@cityofsheldon.com

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The fine print:

A. Awards will be given over a 4-year period of $1,500 per year. Recipients must remain employed by a Sheldon based employer for the 4-year period to be eligible to receive the full grant amount.
B. Applicants who are not awarded a grant in the current year may reapply the following year but will be asked to resubmit all necessary paperwork. Applicants can apply a maximum of 2 times. The review committee will not retain paperwork from year to year.
C. Review Process
   - Finalists will have a face to face or skype interview with the Homecoming Grant Advisory Board.
D. Timeline
   - Application Deadline is March 1
   - Applications reviewed, and interviews completed March 1-April 15.
   - Awards will be announced by April 30.