



## **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 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 is awarding (2) \$6,000 scholarships to an eligible applicants in 2023.
- The 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.
- Have accepted an offer for a position in Sheldon.
- Live within the City Limits of Sheldon.
- Have student loan debt more than \$6,000. Proof of student load debt is required.

### **Scholarship Application Process:**

- Applicants will need to complete the scholarship application and submit the following required materials
  - Resume
  - Temporary transcript (if awarded a scholarship, a copy of an official final transcript or copy of diploma will be required)
  - Proof of at least \$6,000 in student loan debt. A copy of your most recent student loan bill will suffice.
- 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, 2023.
- Scholarship application review will take place between March 1 and April 15.
- Scholarships will be awarded at O'Brien County Career Day on April 21, 2023.



## Sheldon Chamber and Development Homecoming Scholarship Application

### Applicant Information

Have you applied for the Homecoming Scholarship in the past (please circle)?      YES      NO

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

Please answer the following questions using 1-2 short paragraphs per question (please include a separate typed document with your responses):

1. Please list your current job and/or future career plans.
2. Please share below any current or previous volunteer experience(s) that you have been involved with.
3. How did Sheldon shape you and what is drawing you back to live in Sheldon?
4. What way do you envision yourself impacting and being involved in the community?
5. What in Sheldon had the biggest impact in your life?
6. Please share a few of your visions for what could be improved or added to enhance or benefit our community. Additionally, how you would help lead one of those visions.

Along with completed application, please include the following:

1. Resume
2. Temporary Transcript (if awarded a scholarship, a copy of an official final transcript or copy of diploma will be required)
3. Proof of at least \$6,000 in student loan debt. A copy of your most recent student loan bill will suffice.



Return all information by **March 1, 2023** to Curt Strouth, Community Development Director, or Ashley Nordahl, Chamber Director, 416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Sheldon, IA 51201 or e-mail to [cstrouth@cityofsheldon.com](mailto:cstrouth@cityofsheldon.com) [or anordahl@cityofsheldon.com](mailto:anordahl@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 on April 21, 2023 at O'Brien County Career Day.
- E. Failure to submit all required documents as required as part of the application will make applications ineligible for consideration.
- F. Scholarship winner will be expected to be an Ambassador for Sheldon during the 4-year period as needed.  
Ex: Career Day.

