



**Discover Manufacturing will award up to \$6000.00 in total scholarships in 2022.**

Discover Manufacturing has awarded over \$10,000 in scholarships since 2018 to exceptional students planning to use their skills and education to make the Advanced Manufacturing Industry a rewarding career.

**Multiple scholarships from \$500 to \$2000 to be awarded.**

- For graduating high school seniors pursuing a degree in a manufacturing-related program.
- For skilled trades technical training including continuing education for adults and apprentices.

**Scholarships of up to \$1000 are renewable for prior recipients based on their completing an application and an interview by the selection committee. The essay requirement is waived for recipients seeking renewals.**

Scholarships will be awarded based on interest expressed through the completion of an online application and a 500-word essay telling our selection committee **“Why manufacturing is the right career path for me and how I plan to make a difference in a manufacturing environment.”** The Essay should also answer **“What experiences, related skills, or exposure to the manufacturing industry led you to pursue this industry?”** Participation in events such as First Robotics, mechanical manufacturing work experience, Manufacturing Week events or videos, MiCareer Quest or other real-life exposure to manufacturing would be preferred. The application will ask why funds are needed and how they will be utilized as part of our scoring criteria.

Criteria used in the awarding of these Scholarships include:

- Students residing in Kent, Ottawa, Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Montcalm, or Muskegon counties will receive additional points in scoring. Students from surrounding areas may be considered with a strong statement of connection to West Michigan or attending school in West Michigan.
- All applicants must plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution in the state of Michigan to be eligible.
- Essays will be reviewed by the Selection Committee and scored to identify Finalists.
- Finalists will be interviewed (either virtually or in person) by members of the Scholarship Selection Committee prior to determining recipients.
- Alternate non-monetary resources including mentorships, internships, training, and job shadowing opportunities may be offered to qualified individuals not ultimately selected for scholarship awards.
- High school seniors selected must furnish the selection committee with a copy of their college acceptance documentation prior to funds being released.
- Skilled trade recipients must furnish the selection committee with enrollment documentation or acceptance information within a qualified program prior to funds being released.
- In the unlikely event the above documentation paperwork cannot be provided, the offer of a scholarship may be withdrawn with an alternate recipient selected.

Applications are due by 5pm Monday, February 28, 2022. Scholarships will be awarded May 3, 2022, to coincide with **National Skilled Trades Signing Day**. Scholarship recipients and their spouses or parents/ guardians will be invited to attend a reception (to be scheduled later) where they will read their essay to Discover Manufacturing members and have an opportunity to interact with West Michigan manufacturers and educational partners.

An online application will be available at [DiscoverManufacturing.com](http://DiscoverManufacturing.com) beginning October 1, 2021, promoted to students during Discover Manufacturing Week activities and provided to the Intermediate school districts within the seven identified counties. The scholarship will also be promoted to adults and apprentices throughout the Discover Manufacturing network including our manufacturing companies and community college system.

**Scoring of Completed Application:**

- 15 points:** Spelling, grammar, and structure. (essay)
- 40 points:** Answering both parts of the essay question to communicate why manufacturing is the right career path for you and how you plan to make a difference within a manufacturing environment.
- 20 points:** An explanation of the experience, related skills, or exposure to manufacturing you have had
- 15 points:** A statement of why funds are needed and how they will be utilized.
- 10 points:** Resides within the identified seven county region or strong statement of connection to West Michigan.