

2011 - 2012 Keepers of the Fire Scholarship Program

Scholarship Overview

The “Keepers of the Fire Scholarship” is an annual scholarship program that awards 3 \$500.00 scholarships to American Indian (Indigenous) students attending a college or university in the United States, Canada, and around the world. The scholarships are given in honor of my parents, Philip L. and Esther J. Niles. My father, Philip Niles, was an enrolled tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma (descended from the Fox family clan) and dedicated his professional life to helping many American Indian tribes throughout the United States through his employment with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. My father was very proud of his ancestors and heritage. Even though he is now deceased, being an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma myself (traditional name of Wakshe – “Red Fox”), it is my way of supporting the education and capacity-building of the American Indian (Indigenous) student population.

Scholarship Requirements

1. The 3 Keepers of the Fire Scholarships will be given to 3 American Indian (Indigenous) students who are accepted into or registered at a college or university (preferably studying Social Work or American Indian Studies).
2. The scholarships (3 of \$500.00) are a 1-time award of \$500.00. The recipients and non-awardees are encouraged to re-apply in the following year (fall 2012).
3. The nominees must be an enrolled tribal member of any American Indian (Indigenous) tribe or community in the United States, Canada, and around the world.
4. **Preference will be given to those who are returning to their tribe following their college graduation.**

Application Process

Please submit the following by **December 31, 2011** (late or emailed applications will not be reviewed):

Letter of interest, name, contact information, college major, academic level (Freshman, Sophomore, Graduate Student, etc.), and plans following graduation from college to:

Dr. Michael Niles (Wakshe)
4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507
Department of Political Science, Social Work, & Sociology
Email: mniles@missouriwestern.edu
ATTN: Keepers of the Fire Scholarship Selection Committee

The finalists for the scholarship will be interviewed and awardees notified by **March 10, 2012**. The scholarships will be given out at an informal ceremony at the MWSU Department of Political Science, Social Work, & Sociology – Indigenous Early Intervention Alliance. Details of the ceremony will be provided at a later date.

****APPLICANTS MAY APPLY FOR BOTH THE KEEPERS OF THE FIRE SCHOLARSHIP
(See attached notice or use Google to find “keepers of the fire scholarship” for information)
AND THE EDBESENDOWEN SCHOLARSHIP****

****SEPARATE LETTERS OF APPLICATION ARE REQUIRED****