**Scholarship Fund Program**

**Guidelines, Selection Criteria & Application Process**

**Guidelines & Selection Criteria**

**Award** – $2,500 per scholarship; payable directly to the academic institution for the approaching academic year.

**Number of scholarships**– maximum of four scholarships are available in an academic year.

**Eligibility restrictions**– recipient must be the son/daughter to an individual who is employed by a dues-paying NIOP member in good standing.

**Criteria for scholarship** – academic achievement, field of study and essay:

**Academic achievement** – minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

**Field of study**– applicants must be entering a program a field of study at their college or university that will likely provide them with a career that will help agriculture industries (the closer affiliation to oilseed industry, the better).

**Essay** – All applicants must submit a 500-word essay (typed, double-spaced). Any essay significantly longer than two double-spaced pages will not be accepted. **Essay topic**: *Explain why you want to pursue your chosen degree.*

**How to Apply**

* **Complete** applications with all supporting documentation should be submitted via email: leigh@niop.org. If email is not an option, please submit by mailing to NIOP Headquarters at PO Box 11035, Columbia, SC 29211. Mailed applications must be submitted with no staples, page protectors, tabs, binders, brochures, books, notebooks, etc. Each page of the application should be an 8 ½ X 11 piece of paper (one-sided). Please keep a copy of the complete application for your records.
* Each application packet **must** include the following:
	+ Completed application form
	+ Copy of the applicant’s high school or college transcript
	+ 500-word essay (typed, double spaced)
	+ Documentation from college, university or trade school program indicating specific field of study

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| **NIOP Scholarship Application Form****Applicant Information** |
| Student’s Name |  |
| Student’s College ID Number |  |
| Address |  |
| City, State & Zip |  |
| Phone |  |
| Email Address |  |
| College / University Attending |  |
| College / University Address |  |
| City, State & Zip |  |
| Major Field of Study |  |
| Expected Graduation Date |  |
| Relationship to NIOP Member |  |
| NIOP Member’s Name and Company |  |
|  |
| **Educational Information** |
| High School / University  |  |
| GPA |  |
| Graduation Date |  |
| Diploma / Degree Awarded |  |

**Applicant Checklist – make sure you include all listed below.**

The following items must be included in a complete application packet:

[ ]  High school or college transcript

[ ]  Acceptance letter from college, university or trade school program indicating field of study

[ ]  *NIOP Essay*

Please submit complete application and all supporting materials as **one PDF file** by **April 1, 2024** via email: leigh@niop.com. If email is not an option, please submit by mailing to NIOP Headquarters at PO Box 11035, Columbia, SC 29211. Mailed applications must be submitted with no staples, page protectors, tabs, binders, brochures, books, notebooks, etc. Each page of the application should be an 8 ½ X 11 piece of paper (one-sided). Please keep a copy of the complete application for your records. **Incomplete applications or those that haven’t been completed following the application guidelines will not be accepted.**