

Project Opportunity

A Foundation Scholarship Program

FACT SHEET

- WHAT:** Project Opportunity foundation gives financially disadvantaged young people from the Weatherford Independent School District an opportunity to receive financial support for post-secondary education.
- WHO:** It is a project of Weatherford businesses, community members, and others created to provide foundation funding for the Project Opportunity project. A 510(c)(3) tax exempt foundation has been established to enable contributing companies and individuals to support this program.
- WHY:** Project Opportunity is aimed at those students who are unlikely candidates for post-secondary training without intervention within the educational process. Intervention will create an awareness of career opportunities available to individuals and assist in the development of a vision for the future for these students. Mentors may provide guidance for students from the point of entry into the program through high school graduation. The scholarship funds will provide financial assistance for post-secondary training.
- HOW:** The Project Opportunity foundation will provide the financial aid necessary to allow a student who qualifies to attend Weatherford College up to a maximum of \$5,000. Students who attend Weatherford College will be eligible for a full two year scholarship of tuition, books, and fees.
- WHEN:** Project Opportunity became effective in the fall semester of 1991. A student's eligibility is determined by the Project Opportunity Scholarship Committee. To receive the Opportunity scholarship, students must meet the academic and financial criteria established by the Opportunity program and/or related federal grant programs. ***Students must sign up for this scholarship opportunity by the fall semester of their junior year in high school.***
- GOAL:** The goal of this project is to recognize and encourage the academic and citizenship achievement of students who enter the Opportunity program. It is the sincere desire of this foundation to make a positive difference in the lives of both the Student and his or her parents(s) through the development of an educational support system that will contribute to the social and educational development essential for a stronger and better society.

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POLICIES

Responsibility for Administration

The Project Opportunity Scholarship Funding will be administered by the Foundation in accordance with policies adopted by the Board of the Foundation. Such policies will be reviewed and updated periodically as the need arises.

Accounting for Scholarship Funds

A Project Opportunity Scholarship Fund shall be maintained in such account as the Foundation shall determine. The fund account will accurately reflect the receipts and expenditures and balance of the fund, if any.

Annual Financial Report on Scholarship Fund

An annual financial report, which accurately reflects the financial condition of the scholarship fund, will be prepared immediately after December 31 of each year by the Foundation. Such report will show the total assets, liabilities, expenses, revenue, and the operating balance of the fund. The annual financial report shall be presented to the Project Opportunity Foundation Board of Directors no later than March of each year for acceptance and approval.

Donations and How Utilized

Donations to the scholarship fund of the foundation shall be encouraged. All funds which are so designated shall accrue to the corpus of the foundation funds. Scholarship grants are in no way to be construed as a loan to students. If recipients desire to contribute to the fund in the future, they are encouraged to do so.

Investment of Scholarship Funds

The corpus of the Scholarship Fund shall be invested and managed by the Project Opportunity Foundation Board of Directors. Investment of scholarship funds shall include but not be limited to Passbook Savings Accounts, Certificates of Deposit, notes and bonds of the United States Treasury, and in such other investments as the Foundation board may determine prudent.

Selection of Scholars

Each year, after the financial need has been determined by the Scholarship Committee, it shall advise the Project Opportunity Foundation of the funds required for the coming year, based on the scholarships awarded.

The financial aid form (FAF or FFS) must be filed no later than February 15. Scholarship applications must be filed no later than March 30. Notification of eligibility and the amount of the scholarship will be made by July 15. The scholarship awarded will be paid directly to the college, university, or vocational institution selected by the student and approved by the Foundation.

The Scholarship Awards Committee shall be composed of the Project Opportunity Coordinator for the Weatherford ISD, the Chairman of the Project Opportunity Foundation, and the Chairman and Secretary of the Scholarship Committee of Project Opportunity. The Committee shall screen all of the applications for such awards. The Scholarship Committee shall be solely responsible for selecting the applicants.

All students who have met the criteria for continued participation in Project Opportunity will be recognized as Project Opportunity Scholars. Award of Scholarships will be based on financial need and as otherwise specified for additional scholarships in the scholarship regulations. Need shall be determined by consideration of annual family income, number of family members, unusual familial expenses, and the possibility of attending college without scholarship aid. Need will be established through completion of the FAF or FFS family financial aid forms and/or the latest completed income tax return which has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service of the United States in compliance with all Internal Revenue Service rules and regulations and by such other means as may be determined by the Scholarship Committee.

Utilization of Scholarships Granted

Scholarship recipients must inform the Secretary of the Project Opportunity Scholarship Committee no later than September 1 following his/her selection as to whether or not the scholarship is to be utilized. If notification is not received, the scholarship shall be revoked unless the Scholarship Committee extends the Student's deadline for utilization of the scholarship. The scholarship must be utilized beginning no later than September of the year immediately following high school graduation or such other date established by the Scholarship Committee.

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REGULATIONS

As a recipient of an Opportunity Scholarship, the following regulations are called to your attention:

I.

The recipient of said scholarships must enroll in Weatherford College within three months of the date of graduation from high school unless an extension is granted by the Scholarship Committee.

II.

The recipients, in order to remain eligible for continuance of said scholarships, must:

- A. Complete at least 12 semester hours each semester with a passing grade while enrolled in college unless less than 12 semester hours are needed to graduate, and recipient must make normal progress toward completion of requirements for an approved course of study.
- B. Maintain an accumulated grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4 point scale at Weatherford College. If the accumulated grade point average falls below 2.0 the scholarship will be revoked. In the event of revocation, the scholarship recipient may apply to the Scholarship Committee for re-instatement which may or may not be granted. This decision will be solely within the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. If the scholarship is re-instated, the scholarship recipient will be placed on probation for one semester. If the grade point average for the probationary period is not brought up to a minimum of 2.0 the scholarship will be revoked permanently.

If the student changes schools, the scholarship will terminate.

- C. Submit a report of each semester's grades to the Scholarship Committee as soon as received and prior to registering for the next semester, where possible.
- D. Notify the Secretary of the Scholarship Committee if his or her grades fall below a 2.0 average on a 4 point scale, as specified above, for any semester. In the event the scholarship recipient is placed on probation, the recipient will be notified.
- E. Avoid being a disciplinary problem at school or college or in the community. Conduct resulting in suspension or expulsion from school or college will terminate this agreement at the option of the scholarship committee.

III.

Scholarships are to be awarded annually. Individual scholarships are for a maximum of two years with maintenance requirements reviewed each semester.

Scholarship recipients must inform the Secretary of the Scholarship Committee, Weatherford ISD, no later than September 1 of the year in which the scholarship is granted as to whether or not the scholarship is to be utilized. If such notification is not received, the scholarship is automatically revoked.

Said scholarship awards shall be committed in one amount and, so long as the scholarship is in effect, the amount may be utilized over a period of two consecutive academic years (four semesters).

IV.

Scholarship grants are in no way to be construed as a loan to students. They are grants.

Funds will be made payable directly to the post secondary institution each semester after notice from the school that the Student has enrolled. Scholarship funds may be used to pay for tuition, fees, books, supplies and/or on-campus living expenses as approved by the Scholarship Committee.

Lump sum payments will be disbursed to the college or technical institution on the presentation of a voucher, invoice, or official letter from the Business Office of the post secondary institution to the Project Coordinator and/or Chairperson of the Project Opportunity Foundation.

If at the end of four consecutive semesters of study, unexpected funds still remain which a recipient has not used, such funds will be placed in the operating fund to be utilized in granting future scholarships

V.

Project Opportunity Foundation shall administer scholarship funds and handle fiscal and business arrangements pertaining thereto.

VI.

If, for some reason, a scholarship recipient is unable to attend school for four consecutive semesters, the Secretary of the Scholarship Committee (WISD) must be notified in writing. The Scholarship Committee must grant permission in writing if the utilization of scholarship funds is to extend beyond four consecutive semesters.

VII.

If a scholarship recipient terminates his or her attendance at Weatherford College, he or she will no longer be entitled to scholarship funds.

VIII.

The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to revoke any scholarship award granted to a recipient for violation(s) of these rules and regulations, or policies which are made apart hereof if such action is warranted in the sole opinion of the scholarship committee. The action of such committee is final and non-appealable.

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PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

This agreement is between _____ (the “Student”), _____
_____ (the “Parent(s)/Guardian”), and the Project Opportunity FOUNDATION.

I. FOUNDATION’S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE A GRANT AND/OR SCHOLARSHIP COMMITMENT

If the Student meets the requirements stated in this Agreement, the Foundation pledges to assist the Student with scholarship funds in an amount of up to \$5,000 to be paid for tuition to Weatherford College. All Project Opportunity Scholarship funds will be paid directly to Weatherford College.

II. STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY

In order to earn and retain the Scholarship the Student must:

- A. Be a resident of the Weatherford ISD and a student in the Weatherford Public Schools for a minimum of two years prior to becoming eligible for a scholarship and be the child of a parent(s) or guardian who has likewise resided in the Weatherford ISD for a minimum of two years before the student is eligible to receive a scholarship.
- B. Never have been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude.
- C. Enroll by the date established for eligibility.
- D. Graduate from high school within four years of entry in the ninth grade unless otherwise extended by the Scholarship Committee.
- E. Meet academic and attendance requirements as follows:
 - 1. Grade average of 70 (2.0).
 - 2. ACT score of 18 or SAT score of 1,000.
 - 3. Complete course requirements for WEATHERFORD ISD graduation.
 - 4. State attendance requirements.
- F.
 - 1. Behave in and out of school, whether in school in the WEATHERFORD ISD or college or vocational/technical school, in a manner that does not hamper the Student’s education.
 - 2. Abstain completely from the use of illegal drugs and the excessive use or abuse of alcohol. If illegal drugs or the excessive use of alcohol does become a problem, in the exclusive judgment of the scholarship committee at any time during the term of this agreement, the student agrees to participate in a counseling or rehabilitation program,

and if he/she refuses, he/she will be expelled from this program, and any scholarship awarded will be canceled. Such decision by the committee is final and not appealable.

3. Participate in a drug testing program upon entering Project Opportunity and in random drug testing at any time requested by the Scholarship Committee or Project Coordinator. If the Student fails the test or refuses to be tested as requested, he/she may be expelled from the program and any scholarship awarded will be canceled and this agreement shall end.

4. Obey the rules, regulations and laws of the school district, the city, the county, and state where the Student lives and maintain an excellent conduct record at the school or college attended and in the community.

- G. Attend the meetings, tutoring sessions and other activities provided and required by the district for the enrichment of the Student's education.
- H. Enter Weatherford College within three months of high school graduation, unless an extension is approved by the Scholarship Committee.

III. PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

The Parent(s)/Guardian hereby agrees to

- A. See that the Student goes to school **ON TIME** each day;
- B. See that the Student is prepared for class each day; i.e., homework, assignments, books, school supplies;
- C. Attend one Parent Orientation meeting per year;
- D. Attend, with the Student, scheduled meetings each year;
- E. Attend a teacher conference at Student's school each semester or as required by the district;
- F. Notify the Project Coordinator of any change of telephone, or address of the parent/student, or change of guardian;
- G. Discuss the subject matter of the monthly meetings with the Student;
- H. Agree to abide by all Foundation guidelines;
- I. Notify the Project Coordinator, Student's Advisor, or the Scholarship Committee of any problems the Student might have in order to receive assistance in solving them; and,
- J. Complete all financial aid forms/applications required by the Foundation and/or Scholarship Committee and disclose all required information/records regarding financial need to the Scholarship Committee in order to determine the Student's eligibility for financial aid.

IV. WEATHERFORD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ROLE

- A. Employ and assign a Project Coordinator to monitor the Student's academic and behavioral performance through high school graduation and to work with teachers and volunteer mentors to assist and encourage the Student.
- B. Assign a volunteer mentor, as needed, to encourage the Student in school work and Foundation approved activities.

V. VOLUNTEER/MENTOR ROLE

- A. The Project Coordinator will endeavor to provide a volunteer mentor for the Student, as needed. A volunteer is a willing partner in the Foundation's Project Opportunity who will strive to positively mentor and assist the educational development of the Student and encourage the Student to realize the very highest educational potential possible.
- B. The objective of the volunteer mentor is to give several hours of his/her time to the Student each month to support the educational goals and objectives of the Foundation. The volunteer has **NO RESPONSIBILITY** to provide the Student or his/her family with money, food, clothing, school supplies, etc. and should not do so. Mentor recruitment, training, and assignment with students will be in coordination with the Partners in Education Mentoring Guidelines.

VI. PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN APPROVAL/RELEASE

The Parent(s)/Guardian hereby agrees to the Student being in the Program and attending all activities provided by the Foundation/WEATHERFORD ISD during the term of the Program. The Parent(s)/Guardian also agrees that the Student may attend Team meetings for discussions with the Student relating to topics which may be deemed sensitive, such as substance abuse, peer pressure, self esteem, postponing parenthood, and the importance of honesty, discipline, hard work, and personal responsibility. In return for the Student being permitted to take part in these activities and the benefits the Student will receive from taking part in these activities, the Parent(s)/Guardian hereby fully and forever relieves, releases and discharges the Foundation, its directors, officers, employees and volunteers, and all persons assisting in these activities, including WEATHERFORD ISD personnel, from any and all liabilities, claims of whatsoever kind or nature, including expenses arising from the accident or injury of the Student while taking part in any of these activities. The parent(s)/guardian agrees to indemnify and hold all of the parties described above harmless from and against any and all such claims, costs, expenses and liabilities made or incurred by, or asserted on behalf of the Student.

VII. WAIVER

The Student and Parents(s)/Guardian understand that the Foundation has a legitimate interest in protecting the safety of Foundation participants, including the Student, the Student's volunteer/mentor, other students and volunteers, project coordinators, WEATHERFORD ISD personnel and other foundation employees, if any, (collectively, the Participants) and in securing the necessary information to enable the Student to obtain a Project Opportunity Scholarship and

to maintain his/her eligibility to continue receiving scholarship funds after graduation from Weatherford High School. Accordingly, the Student and the Parent(s)/Guardian hereby authorize the Foundation and the Weatherford Independent School District to contact third parties, including the Weatherford Independent School District, Weatherford College, Texas Department of Human Services, Parker County District Attorney, the Weatherford Police Department and other agencies and offices, for information relating to the Student, and hereby consent and agree to the release of such information by such third parties to the Foundation and/or the Weatherford Independent School District. The Student and Parent(s)/Guardian understand that the Foundation may terminate the Student's participation in the Foundation's Program and activities based on information supplied to it by such third parties if, in the Foundation's sole judgment, such information indicates that the Student has breached this Agreement or that the Student's continued participation in the Foundation's Program or activities would be unwise.

Updated 7-7-08

VIII. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This agreement embodies the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and supersedes all prior Agreements and understandings relating to the subject matter hereof.

Agreed and entered into _____, 20__.

Student

Project Opportunity Foundation

Parent(s) Guardian

Weatherford Independent School District

Address

Zip

Principal

Work Phone

Project Coordinator

Home Phone

EMERGENCY

In case of emergency, the Parent(s)/Guardian authorized the Foundation to contact the following person(s).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

WORK PHONE: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

WORK PHONE: _____ HOME PHONE: _____