

Dakota Opportunities in Education Foundation Scholarships

Joseph T. Beard Memorial STEM Scholarship

The Joseph T. Beard Scholarship was established in 2023 to honor the memory of Joe "Boscoe" Beard who lost his valiant battle against STAT3 Gain-of-Function Disease. Joe was a 1999 graduate of Dakota High School and 2004 graduate of the University of Illinois obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. Joe was a devoted husband, brother, father, and uncle, who valued spending time with his family. He was a gifted musician and a lover of music.

The Beard family is forever in debt to the entire Dakota community which supported Joey and his family. We offer this scholarship as a way to "pay forward" the love and support Joey was shown during his battle.

Eligibility/Qualifications:

- A Dakota High School Senior planning to enroll full-time in a post-high school educational STEM program in the fall following graduation (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math-related)
- Proof of a "B" average or better with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA
- Proof of good attendance during your junior and senior years of high school
- Proof of college acceptance/commitment majoring in science, technology, engineering, or math

Amount: \$1,000

Payment: Funds for educational related expenses such as tuition, fees, and books. Payment will be made directly to the students upon proof of your acceptance and enrollment for the fall semester. The funds must be used during the first two college semesters following the recipient's high school graduation.

Directions: Complete application and return to Mr. Kevin Cline by **Friday, April 2, 2026**. The applicant must provide an official transcript and two letters of recommendation from a teacher or any person (not related to the applicant's family) who knows the applicant well. Relationship with the applicant should be stated in the letter. All application materials must be written using MS word or other electronic word processing. Create a document that contains the following sections/information:

1. Personal Information:

- First and Last Name
- Address/City/State/ZIP
- Phone
- Date of Birth

2. Activities

- Include all school and out-of-school activities, work experience, honors, awards, etc.

3. Goals:

- Write a brief paragraph explaining your educational plans and career goals

4. Personal Statement:

- Write a short essay explaining why you should be considered for this scholarship