

James R. Hoover Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship Background:

The James R. Hoover Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the lifelong commitment of James R. Hoover to education, coaching, and student development.

James R. Hoover was a 1955 graduate of Dakota High School in Dakota, Illinois. He earned his teaching degree from Illinois State University, later completing his Master's Degree at Bradley University. He furthered his professional preparation by attending Northern Illinois University, where he obtained his certification in Administration.

Jim devoted his career to teaching, coaching, and school leadership across several Illinois schools, including Dakota High School. A passionate coach and mentor, Jim was a proud member of the Illinois Basketball Coaches' Association (IBCA). He believed deeply in the power of athletics to teach discipline, teamwork, leadership, and character—values he carried into every role he served. This scholarship reflects his enduring impact on students, athletes, and future educators.

Eligibility & Qualifications

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria to be considered:

1. Graduate of Dakota High School
2. Multi-sport athlete (participation in two or more sports)
3. Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7
4. Proof of enrollment at a two-year or four-year accredited institution
5. Declared or intended major in Education
6. Demonstrated interest in coaching
7. Special consideration will be given to students attending:
 - o Rock Valley College, or
 - o Highland Community College

Scholarship Award

Two scholarships will be awarded annually (\$250 each):

- **One male student**
- **One female student**

Funds are 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 fall semester.

Essay Prompt

Please submit a **500–750 word essay** responding to the following:

James R. Hoover dedicated his life to education, coaching, and mentoring young people both in and out of the classroom. As a multi-sport athlete pursuing a degree in education, describe how your experiences in athletics have shaped your character, leadership skills, and desire to teach and coach. How do you hope to make a positive impact on future students and athletes, and how does your path reflect the values exemplified by James R. Hoover?

Guidance for applicants for the essay:

- Share specific athletic experiences that influenced your growth
- Discuss why education and coaching are important to you
- Reflect on leadership, service, or mentorship moments
- Explain your future goals in education and/or coaching

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the following to Kevin Cline no later than **Friday, April 3rd 2026**:

- Completed scholarship application form
- Official or unofficial Dakota High School transcript
- Proof of college enrollment (acceptance letter or class schedule)
- Essay response to above prompt
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher or coach at Dakota High School

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Application Form

Applicant Information

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

High School Information

High School Attended: Dakota High School

Graduation Year: _____

Activities & Extracurricular Involvement

Please list all activities and extracurriculars you participated in during high school (including sports, clubs, leadership roles, employment, volunteer work, etc.). You may attach an additional page if needed.

Academic & Athletic Accomplishments / Awards

Please list any academic or athletic honors, awards, or recognitions received during high school (both team and individual).

Career Goals

Provide a brief summary of your career goals.

Applicant Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____