



**INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL  
WORKERS®**

900 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202.833.7000  
[www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org)

**KENNETH W. COOPER**  
International President

**PAUL A. NOBLE**  
International  
Secretary-Treasurer

January 25, 2024

**VIA EMAIL**

To: All IBEW Local Union Business Managers in the United States and Canada

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The IBEW Founders' Scholarship honors the dedicated wiremen and linemen who founded the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Each year the officers of the IBEW are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steward the electrical industry that our founders envisioned. An application for the IBEW Founders' Scholarship (Form 172) is enclosed. This is also available on the IBEW website [www.ibew.org/FoundersScholarship](http://www.ibew.org/FoundersScholarship).

All IBEW members who have been in continuous good standing for four years preceding May 1 of the scholarship year in which they plan to apply are eligible for the IBEW Founders' Scholarship. Please note, if a member has been on honorary withdrawal at any time during the aforementioned period, they will not be eligible to participate.

Spouses or children of IBEW members are not eligible for the IBEW Founders' Scholarship. Union Plus has a scholarship that is available for IBEW members, as well as their spouses and dependent children. Please visit the Union Plus website [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org) for more information about other scholarship opportunities.

I encourage all interested eligible members to participate in the IBEW Founders' Scholarship Program. Please make the Founders' Scholarship opportunity known to your members and urge them to apply.

With best wishes, I am

In Solidarity,

Kenneth W. Cooper  
International President

KWC:jl  
Enclosure  
Copy to All International Vice Presidents  
All International Representatives



# IBEW® FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP

The IBEW Founders' Scholarship honors the dedicated wiremen and linemen who, on November 28, 1891, organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Each year the officers of the IBEW are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steward the electrical industry that our founders envisioned.

This award is for up to \$200 per semester credit hour or \$134 per trimester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate's, bachelor's, or postgraduate degree in a field that will further the electrical industry overall (as determined by the Founders' Scholarship Administrator). The maximum distribution is \$24,000 per person over a period not to exceed 8 years.

## RULES FOR ENTRY

The Founders' Scholarship competition is an adult program, to be used solely by IBEW members. It is NOT for the children of members.

1. Applicants must have been in continuous good standing and have paid dues without an honorary withdrawal for 4 years preceding May 1 of the scholarship year, or be charter members of a local union.
2. Each applicant must be recommended in writing by the local union business manager. If there is no business manager, then the recommendation must come from the local union president, system council chairman, or general chairman.
3. At least two additional letters of recommendation must be sent by individuals who are familiar with the applicant's achievements and abilities.
4. Copies of all academic transcripts from high school, college, apprenticeship, or other educational and developmental programs must be submitted.
5. A complete résumé is required. The résumé should outline the applicant's education and work history; military service; special honors or awards; and involvement in union, civic, community, or religious affairs.
6. Applicants are required to submit a 250-500 word essay (typed and double spaced). The title and topic must be: "How I Will Use My Founders' Scholarship to Benefit the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Electrical Industry."
7. Materials need not be sent at the same time but all must be postmarked or emailed prior to May 1 of the scholarship year.

## Selection of Winners

Awards will be based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness, and career goals.

The independent Founders' Scholarship Selection Committee will be composed of academic, professional, and community representatives. They will examine the complete record of each scholarship applicant to choose the winners. All applicants will be notified, and the scholarship winners will be featured in *The Electrical Worker*.

## Responsibility of Each Founders' Scholar

Scholarship winners must begin their studies in the term immediately following receipt of the award or in January of the following year. Each term's earned grades must be sent to the Founders' Scholarship Administrator together with a Founders' Scholarship Progress Sheet. After the first calendar year in the program, and by each August 1 thereafter, the annual Founders' Scholar paper is due. The paper must be at least 1,000 words on a labor-related topic, covering any aspect affecting the current labor movement or labor history. Scholarships are not transferable and are forfeited if the student withdraws or fails to meet the requirements for graduation from the school. If a serious life situation arises to prevent continuation of studies, the scholarship winner may request that the scholarship be held in abeyance for a maximum of 1 academic year.

## APPLICATION

Please print clearly or type

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Member of Local Union # \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Initiated into IBEW \_\_\_\_\_  
(On IBEW Membership Card or Dues Receipt) (Month/Year)

Most recent employer \_\_\_\_\_

Job classification \_\_\_\_\_

Work telephone # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed field of study \_\_\_\_\_

Degree expected \_\_\_\_\_

School (List your first and second choices)

First \_\_\_\_\_

Second \_\_\_\_\_

Did you complete high school or receive a GED? Yes  No   
(Send transcripts or other evidence to the Scholarship Committee)

Did you take apprenticeship or skill-improvement training? Yes  No   
(Send transcripts to the Scholarship Committee)

Do you have any education certificates or professional licenses? Yes  No   
(Send evidence to the Scholarship Committee)

Have you taken any college courses? Yes  No   
(Send transcripts to the Scholarship Committee)

Name used on class records \_\_\_\_\_

The creation of this scholarship program is a free act of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The IBEW retains its right to alter, suspend, cancel, or halt the IBEW Founders' Scholarship Program at any time and without giving any reason, provided that each scholarship winner already in school under the program will continue to receive the stipends until graduation or the receipt of \$24,000 for undergraduate study under his/her IBEW Founders' Scholarship (whichever comes first).

My signature is evidence that I understand and agree to all the rules governing the scholarship as listed on this application.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Application and materials should be emailed to [Scholarship@ibew.org](mailto:Scholarship@ibew.org) or mailed to:

**IBEW Founders' Scholarship Committee**  
900 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001