

Press Release

February 12, 2016

RE: Great River Workforce Development Corporation, Inc. Scholarship

Contact Person: Matt Jones, (618)296-4315

The Madison-Bond Workforce Investment Board has announced the availability of scholarships for 2016 high school graduates entering Lewis & Clark Community College, Southwestern Illinois College or Kaskaskia College next fall. The scholarships are being offered through the Great River Workforce Development Corporation, Inc., which has been sponsoring the community college scholarship program since 2007. To qualify for the scholarship, students must be residents of either Madison or Bond County.

“Due to the generosity of our sponsors, we will once again be able to award individual scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00,” said Jim Pennekamp, president of the Great River Workforce Development Corporation, Inc.

“Funds for the scholarship are made available through contributions from local business, education, labor and government partners”, Pennekamp said, “and without their generosity and support, this opportunity to link education and workforce development would not be possible.”

Pennekamp added that all donors to the scholarship fund receive an ad in the Madison-Bond Workforce Investment Board’s Annual Report, which is distributed throughout the two-county area, and that all donations are tax deductible.

Last year five \$1,000.00 scholarships were awarded. Local sponsors included: Coldwell Banker Brown Realty, Gliks, Greater Madison County Federation of Labor, Juneau & Associates, Kaskaskia College, Lewis and Clark Community College, Madison County Community Development, Madison County Employment & Training, Madison County Regional Office of Education, Market Basket, Mortgage Makers, Phillips 66, SCF Lewis and Clark Marine, Southwestern Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council, Southwestern Illinois College, The Bank of Edwardsville, United States Steel – Granite City Works.

“Each year we see an increase in the number of scholarship applications we receive,” said David Stoecklin, Executive Director of the Madison County Employment & Training Department, “and as more businesses become aware of this opportunity to assist young people meet their career goals, we hope to see an increase in the number of scholarships we are able to award.”

Last year’s scholarship recipients were the following: Lisa Dickman, Ashley Henry, Jonathan Klunk, Sofiya Knebel and Joshua Ponce. Madison-Bond Workforce Investment Board members selected the scholarship winners based on grade point averages, references, and essays that the students wrote about their career goals.

For more information on sponsoring or applying for the scholarship, contact Matt Jones at the Madison County Employment & Training Department, (618) 296-4315. The application deadline is June 10, 2016.