

Elizabeth D. Gaines
and
Katherine G. Steele
Scholarship
\$2000 Minimum
2020
Application Form



Administered by a Scholarship Committee of
the First Presbyterian Church of Wasilla, Alaska
Applications available from counselors or at
www.firstpreswasilla.org

Introduction

In 1955, two Arkansas teachers decided to make a change. They sent their teaching credentials to a town in Alaska called Anchorage and started the long trip north. They packed all their belongings in a half-ton pick-up truck and began their 6000-mile journey. When they arrived in Anchorage that July, they decided that while they liked Alaska and were happy that they had made the trip, perhaps Anchorage wasn't really their kind of town. It was recommended to them that they go back to Palmer and see the school superintendent there. At that time Palmer was so small they hadn't even been aware of going through it. Since it was July, they were somewhat skeptical about finding jobs still available there. But they needed jobs, so off they went. When they got to the school, they found a distinguished gentleman dressed in a suit out in the hall; assuming him to be the superintendent they were seeking they introduced themselves. It turned out he was the janitor. He gave them directions to the Superintendent's office and when they arrived they found a man in tar-covered khaki pants. As it turned out, he was the Superintendent; he'd just been re-roofing his house, and he did indeed need some more good teachers.

The ladies taught in Palmer for over twenty years. Miss Gaines taught English in both the High School and the Junior High. Along with that came the traditional extracurricular activities of drama and debate. Miss Steele taught science and the occasional math class "to break up the day." After retirement, the ladies stayed in the area they had come to love so much. Before Miss Gaines' death in 1998, they decided they wanted to give back to the community. They determined that since they had made their money here through their love of teaching, the very best thing they could do was to help further the education of Valley students through a scholarship. They made arrangements with their lawyer and the Presbyterian Church (USA) to establish the fund and have it administered by the First Presbyterian Church of Wasilla. The arrangements were finalized in 1999 and the first scholarships were awarded in 2000. In the fall of 2004, Miss Steele passed away. The committee feels that it is an honor and a privilege to continue the legacy of these two Christian women.

Purpose

To offer financial assistance as scholarship gifts to offset tuition, registration fees, travel, books and related educational expenses to select recipients who are:

- Recent graduates of a Mat-Su Valley high school.
- Students taking studies within the first five years of high school graduation.
- Members of any established Christian church.
- Loyal to America and willing to uphold its laws.

Qualifications

- Applicants must be residents of the Mat-Su Valley.
- Applicants must be members of an established Christian church.
- Applicants must express their loyalty to the United States and be willing to uphold its laws.
- Applicants must be of good moral character and demonstrate that they are drug and alcohol free.
- Applicants should have an academic record consistent with success in their chosen field.
- Applicants must be recent graduates of a Mat-Su Valley school or within five years of that graduation.
- Recipients must enroll in a trade, technical or vocational school, or in a college or university degree program.
- Recipients must carry at least a full-time course load for the duration of the academic year.

Award Distribution

- The Elizabeth D. Gaines and Katherine G. Steele Scholarship Committee will award one or more scholarships annually each in an amount not less than \$2,000.
- The Scholarship Committee will select the winners each year based on the qualifications. Scholarship recipients will be announced no later than May 30 of each scholarship year.
- **Proof of college/school acceptance and enrollment, including student ID number, must be submitted prior to award disbursement. Disbursement of the award will be made by mid-August through the Registrar's Office.**

Application Deadline

All application materials, including the essay, must be delivered to the church office, open Tuesday – Friday from 10-2, or postmarked no later than **April 17, 2020**.

Personal Information

Name: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent(s) Names: _____

Parent's Address: _____

Name of High School and / or College: _____

School Address: _____

High School Principal's Name: _____

Church of Membership: _____

Church Address: _____

Pastor's or Priest's Name: _____

Budget Plan

Complete your plan for the academic year for which this scholarship applies. Fill in all blanks that apply to your situation. The budget plan is required.

Expenses for the school year

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Tuition and fees	_____
Books and supplies	_____
Housing and household expenses	_____
Food and meals	_____
Clothing, laundry, etc.	_____
Day care	_____
Required tools and equipment	_____
Transportation	_____
Other expenses (specify)	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Total	\$ _____

Income for the school year Known (K) or Expected (E) (Please circle one)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Savings for education	_____ K / E
Expected support from parents	_____ K / E
Income from your employment	_____ K / E
VA Benefits	_____ K / E
Loans	_____ K / E
Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend	_____ K / E
Other financial aid and benefits (specify)	_____
_____	_____ K / E
_____	_____ K / E
_____	_____ K / E
_____	_____ K / E
Total	\$ _____
Shortfall (Expense – Income)	\$ _____

Application Guidelines

Elizabeth D. Gaines and Katherine G. Steele Scholarship Administered by the First Presbyterian Church, Wasilla, Alaska

Scholarship Requirements

1. _____ Fully complete the scholarship application for the current year. (A new application is required for each award year.)

2. _____ Complete the required essay. The essay must be three (3) to five (5) pages in length and must address one of the following topics:

Describe something you have done in the past year that has made a difference in your community.

What Are Some of the Most Important Issues in Your Field of Study?

Other than the Bible, tell us about a book or article you have read that has inspired you?

When answering the question, consider your:

- a) personal history;
- b) your community service and extracurricular activities;
- c) and your personal and educational goals.

3. _____ Enclose three (3) dated letters of recommendation less than one-year old attesting to your scholastic qualifications, faith, and church membership. Include:

- a) one from a teacher or counselor,
- b) one from your minister or priest,
- c) and one from a community member.

4. _____ Attach all recent high school, college and university transcripts.

5. _____ Attach a letter of acceptance or a recent registration receipt from your school, college, or university.

6. _____ Submit the completed application and all supporting materials by the deadline – **April 17, 2020**, to:

Gaines & Steele
Scholarship Committee
First Presbyterian Church
1375 East Bogard Road
Wasilla, AK 99654-6524

QUESTIONS? Call 376-5053

CERTIFICATION

I certify that I meet all of the qualifications, and that my answers to the preceding questions are true and correct. I understand that any false answer or deliberate omission on this application may be grounds for rejection of this application and withdrawal of any award granted.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE