



Don Bruning Legacy of Dedication Scholarship Award

\$500 Scholarship Award

We are thrilled to introduce the **Don Bruning Legacy of Dedication Scholarship Award**, an exciting opportunity exclusively for our young high school members at Great Erie Credit Union.

Named after Don Bruning, a retired Orchard Park High School math teacher, who selflessly dedicated 52 years of volunteer service within our credit union. Don not only contributed his expertise as an educator but also served admirably on the volunteer Board of Directors. This scholarship is a testament to Don's unwavering commitment, ***embodying the values of dedication, volunteerism and education.***

We aim to celebrate and honor his outstanding contributions by providing this unique scholarship opportunity to our high school members, encouraging them to pursue their academic aspirations and community involvement with the same spirit of dedication that Don Bruning exemplified throughout his remarkable tenure.

Eligibility: Applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Must be member in good standing at Great Erie Federal Credit Union.
2. Only one application per student may be submitted.
3. Scholarship is available to high school seniors who are pursuing a degree in Education or a related field of study.
4. Applicant is a college-bound high school senior at the time of submitting the application and attending college for the first time in the fall of 2025, enrolled in either a two-or four-year accredited educational institution.
5. Applicant agrees to use any scholarship funds at an accredited educational institution only.

How to Apply – Application Process

1. Provide the following personal information: name, address, phone number, email address, name of high school, graduation date, name of college, dated enrolled, major and/or degree sought, expected graduation date.
2. Include the following certification with your application: "I certify that this information is true, complete and accurate. I authorize the release of this information to confirm and/or verify this application. I authorize the release of my name, school, and any award granted in public and media announcements.
3. Submit a college transcript including GPA with your application. The transcript may be unofficial but must be included.
4. Write and include your essay. (Essay instructions below)
5. Email your completed application to our scholarship committee, Attn: kbruce@GreatErieFCU.com.

The deadline to submit your application is March 31, 2025. Completed applications may also be mailed or delivered to: Great Erie FCU, 4000 N. Buffalo Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127. Applications will be judged in early Spring 2025. The lucky winner will be announced in May.

Scholarship Essay

To be considered for the **Don Bruning Legacy of Dedication Scholarship Award**, applicants are required to submit an essay that reflects their commitment to *dedication, education and volunteerism*. The essay should address the following three questions:

1. **Dedication** (200 words): Reflect on a personal experience that required dedication and perseverance. This could be a long-term project, a challenging academic pursuit, or a commitment to a cause. Explain how this experience has shaped your character and influenced your goals for the future.
2. **Education** (200 words): Discuss the role of education in your life and how you envision it contributing to your future endeavors. Highlight any specific academic achievements, challenges overcome, or a teacher/mentor who has significantly influenced your educational journey.

3. **Volunteerism** (200 words): Share a meaningful volunteer experience that has impacted your understanding of community service. Describe the skills or lessons you gained through this experience and how you plan to continue contributing to your community through volunteerism in the future.

Applicants are encouraged to provide specific examples, personal anecdotes and thoughtful reflections in response to each question. The essay should not exceed a total of 750 words. Your thoughtful responses will be instrumental in the selection process for the Don Bruning Legacy of Dedication Scholarship, honoring a legacy that values dedication, education and volunteerism.