

James W. Thomas

Education Scholarship

James W. Thomas, born March 11, 1947, began his career in education in 1972 as an instructor in business education at Stephan Decatur High School. He remained in this position until 1992, when he became dean of students for the high school. From 1994 to 1996 he held the dean of students position at MacArthur High School.

In 1996 Mr. Thomas became the assistant principal of Eisenhower High School and just two years later was selected as principal of Stephen Decatur High. Upon the closure of Stephan Decatur in the year 2000, he was chosen to be the principal of Eisenhower High School.

Mr. Thomas served on many educational committees including the North Central Committee Review Team, the Business Education Task Force, the Discipline Action Committee, the Curriculum Advisory Council, and the Block Scheduling Committee. He was a supervisor and instructor for the Saturday High School program and worked in the Adult Education evening program. Mr. Thomas was also a member of the Illinois

Principals Association. As a respected leader, he served as a president of the Decatur Association Building Administrators and Phi Delta Kappa.

Mr. Thomas died in 2002 at the age of 54 after a courageous battle with leukemia.

This scholarship continues the positive influence Mr. Thomas has had on Decatur Public Schools by assisting and encouraging young people to pursue their dreams and continue their education.

State, Zip _____

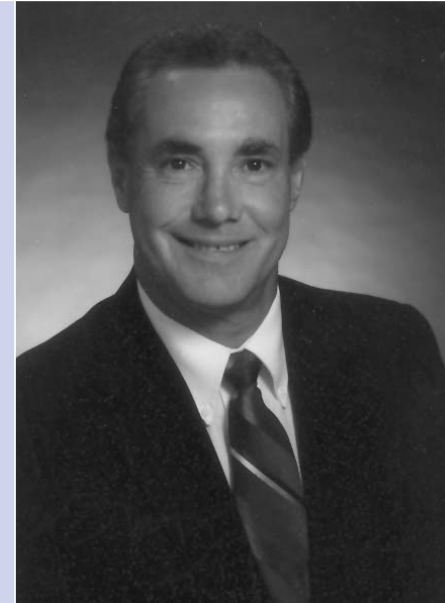
City _____

Address _____

Name _____

TO:

The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County
125 N. Water St.
Suite 200
Decatur, Illinois 62523

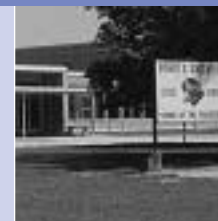


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Purpose

The purpose of the James W. Thomas Education Scholarship is to provide financial assistance to a Decatur Public Schools graduate who is pursuing a college degree in education. The scholarship was established by school staff, friends, and family members in his memory and honor.

The Amount

The annual award will be in the amount of \$500.

Frequency of Award

This scholarship is awarded to one student each year until the fund is depleted. The Foundation reserves the right to not award scholarships if a qualified applicant does not apply.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this scholarship the student must:

1. Be a high school senior enrolled in the Decatur Public Schools;
2. Have a 3.5 grade point average or better;
3. Demonstrate financial need;
4. Declare Education as his/her major area of study in college and intend to pursue a teaching career.

Application Process

Application forms must be submitted to The Foundation office on or before March 1st of the year of the award. Forms may be obtained from the Administrative Office of the high school or directly from The Foundation: 125 W. Water Street, Decatur, IL 62523; telephone, 429-3000.

Selection Committee

The selection of a recipient will be made by a committee comprised of, but not limited to, three faculty members, one administrator from the Decatur Public Schools, and a Thomas family member.

Notification of Recipient

The recipient will be notified in writing by May 30th of the year of the award.

Presentation of Award

The presentation of this award, including appropriate certificate, shall be made at the Honors Assembly or other activity appropriate to the purpose of the award and consistent with the selection committee's recommendation.

Distribution of Award

Payment of the award will be made directly to the educational institution or, when appropriate, to the students after documents are submitted to the Community Foundation showing expenditures for college. These documents might be canceled checks or receipts for college tuition, room and board, or fees.

Contributions

This scholarship fund has been set up in such a manner that an award will be given each year until the fund is depleted. Contributions to the fund are welcome. Checks may be made to The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County in the name of the James W. Thomas Education Scholarship.