

**Discover Manufacturing will award up to $10,000.00 in total scholarships in 2023.**

 Since 2018, Discover Manufacturing has awarded over $15,000 in scholarships to exceptional students planning to use their skills and education to make the advanced manufacturing industry a rewarding career choice.

**Multiple scholarships from $500 to $2000 to be awarded**.

* For graduating high school seniors pursuing a degree in a manufacturing-related program.
* For skilled trades technical training including continuing education for adults and apprentices.

Scholarships will be awarded based on interest expressed through the completion of an online application and a 500-word essay telling our selection committee **“Why manufacturing is the right career path for me and how I plan to make a difference in a manufacturing environment.”**

The essay should also answer **“What experiences, related skills, or exposure to the manufacturing industry led you to pursue this industry?”**  Participation in events such as First Robotics, mechanical manufacturing work experience, Manufacturing Week events or videos, MiCareerQuest or other real-life exposure to manufacturing would be preferred.  The application will ask why funds are needed and how they will be utilized as part of our scoring criteria.

Essays will be reviewed by the selection committee and scored to identify finalists.  Finalists will be interviewed (either virtually or in person) by members of the scholarship selection committee prior to determining recipients.

 Criteria used in the awarding of Discover Manufacturing scholarships include:

* Students residing in Kent, Ottawa, Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Montcalm, or Muskegon counties will receive additional points in scoring. Students from surrounding areas may be considered with a strong statement of connection to West Michigan or attending school in West Michigan.
* All applicants must plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution in the state of Michigan.

**Scholarships are renewable up to $1000 for prior recipients based on the application and an interview with the selection committee. The essay requirement is waived for recipients seeking renewals.**

Non-monetary resources including mentorships, internships, training, and job shadowing opportunities may be offered to qualified individuals not selected for scholarship awards.

 **Release of scholarship funds**

* Selected high school seniors must provide a copy of their college acceptance documentation prior to funds being released.
* Skilled trade recipients must provide enrollment documentation or acceptance information within a qualified program prior to funds being released.

*In the unlikely event the above documentation paperwork cannot be provided, the offer of a scholarship may be withdrawn with an alternate recipient selected.*

**Applications are due by 5pm Friday, April 14, 2023.**

**Scholarships will be awarded in person May 3, 2023.**

Scholarship recipients and their spouses or parents/ guardians will be invited to attend a reception where they will read their essay to Discover Manufacturing members and have an opportunity to interact with West Michigan manufacturers and educational partners.

 **Scoring of Completed Application:**

**15 points** Spelling, grammar, and structure of essay.

**40 points** Answering both parts of the essay question to communicate
why manufacturing is the right career path for you and how you plan to make a difference within a manufacturing environment.

**15 points** An explanation of the experience, related skills, or exposure to manufacturing you have had.

**15 points** A statement explaining why funds are needed and how they will be utilized.

**15 points** Resides within the identified seven-county region or strong statement of connection to West Michigan.

Funding is discretionary by scholarship selection committee and may vary in award amounts based on number of qualified applicants and available funding.

Scores of 80% to 84%: $1000 award

Scores of 85% to 89%: $1250 award

Scores of 90% and above are eligible for maximum awards of $1500 to $2000.