



## 2017 Annual Scholarship Awards for High School Seniors with Hearing Loss

The Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey is pleased to offer up to four scholarships in the amount of \$1500 each. High school seniors with hearing loss who plan to attend college, university or vocational school, beginning Fall 2017, are invited to apply. Eligible applicants must be New Jersey residents between the ages of 17 and 20. The Scholarship is a one-time award which encourages and recognizes academic achievement, leadership qualities, community service and work experience.

Funding for the Scholarship Awards is generously provided by the Garden State Walk4Hearing event in October 2016. This annual Walk4Hearing held in West Windsor, NJ, is one of 22 walks organized by the national office to raise both funds and awareness of hearing loss. With over 14 state organizations and 200 chapters, the mission of the Hearing Loss Association of America ([www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)) is “to open the world of communication for people with hearing loss, through information, education, advocacy, and support”.

### Scholarship Application

The Scholarship Application consists of the **Application Form**, and an **Essay**, to be filled out/written and *submitted by the applicant*. In addition, **five Supporting Documents** (listed below), each of which are requested by the applicant, are *submitted by the individuals (or office) asked*.

Submit **ALL** parts of the Scholarship Application to Latisha Porter-Vaughn, Scholarship Committee Chair at [Latisha.Porter-Vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:Latisha.Porter-Vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org), with the applicant’s name in the subject line.

The final deadline for the *completed* Scholarship Application is **May 1, 2017**.

### Application Instructions:

The following checklist is meant to make the application process easier to understand and follow.

- 1) The applicant is encouraged to fill out the **Application Form** (two pages) and submit it as soon as completed to [latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org) with the applicant’s name in the subject line.
- 2) Next, the applicant should contact five people who will agree to send in one of **five Supporting Documents**. (Please give ample notice to all the people you ask!) All five of the supporting documents will be submitted by the individuals asked (*not the applicant*), to the Scholarship Committee Chair, Latisha Porter-Vaughn at [latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org), with your/ applicant’s name in the subject line. The Supporting Documents include:
  - a) **Three Letters of Reference** -- two from high school teachers/guidance counselor, and one from another non-family adult leader who know you/applicant well. List the three adults that you/applicant select for Letters of Reference in the last section of the Application Form (bottom of page 2); then contact them and send by e-mail a copy of the “**Letter of Reference for HLAA Scholarship**” page, with the first two lines filled in by you, the Applicant. (This Letter of Reference page provides instructions to the Letter of Reference writers, including the request to send their letters directly to [latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org), with the applicant’s name in the subject line, before the deadline, May 1.)
  - b) Your/applicant’s **high school transcript** should be requested from the high school registrar. Please ask that the transcript be sent directly to [latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org) (with applicant’s name in the subject line).

c) **A recent audiogram and audiological report:** Please request from your/applicant’s audiologist a scanned copy of the applicant’s most recent report, dated within the last two years. Please email to [latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org) with the applicant’s name in the subject line.

- 3) **Essay:** The third and final part of the Application is the Essay of approximately 500 words, written by you/the applicant, with the title, “**How Hearing Loss Has Impacted My Life and How I Have Met Those Challenges.**” Describe the impact of hearing loss on your life academically, emotionally, and socially. How have you met those challenges? In addition to your own efforts, tell us about other people who may have helped you as well as any assistive technology. Include details about your career goals, and your educational plan for achieving these goals.

Please submit your **Essay** --which may be sent later than (and separate from) the **Application Form** -- to [latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org), with your name in the subject line before the deadline, May 1, 2017. If possible, submit it as a Word Doc or PDF attachment.

**Completing the Scholarship Application:**

- 4) With the following checklist summary (in table below), double-check that all parts of your Application (with detailed instructions above) have been submitted. Using the same chart, the Scholarship Committee will assemble the items you are responsible for sending (**Application Form** and **Essay**), with the **five Supporting Documents** (sent by the writers at different times) into a digital folder with your name. When all parts are received, you will be notified by e-mail that your Scholarship Application is complete. If parts of your Application are missing or incomplete, you will be notified by e-mail about one week before the May 1 deadline. Only completed Scholarship Applications will be evaluated by the Scholarship Committee.

| Check if Sent to/received by Latisha Porter-Vaughn, Scholarship Chair:<br><a href="mailto:latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss.org">latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss.org</a> .<br>See Instructions (#above) |                                   |               |   | Rec'd. |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|---|--------|
|   |                                   | Sent by       | v |        |
| 1   | Application Form (2 pages)        | Applicant     |   |        |
| 3   | Applicant’s Essay                 | Applicant     |   |        |
| 2a  | Letter of Reference (1)           | Evaluator (1) |   |        |
| 2a  | Letter of reference (2)           | Evaluator (2) |   |        |
| 2a  | Letter of Reference (3)           | Evaluator (3) |   |        |
| 2b  | High School transcript            | High School   |   |        |
| 2c  | Audiogram and Audiological Report | Audiologist   |   |        |

**Final Notes:**

- 5) The top candidates will be contacted sometime in May. Before the final winners are publicly announced and awarded, the Scholarship Committee will request a copy of the **Applicant’s Letter of Acceptance** (confirming a Fall 2017 enrollment), from an accredited college, university or other post-secondary school.
- 6) Winners are expected to attend the **Scholarship Award Ceremony**, and give short speeches. *The date and time of this event will be determined and posted soon.* Join us with your family and friends and teachers to celebrate, meet the Scholarship Committee, and learn more about the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey with its wealth of valuable resources. The event (and winners) will be publicized in local papers and the NJ Monthly Communicator.

**Thank you** for your time and effort in applying. If you/applicant, Letter of Reference writers, school counselors or parents have any further questions or concerns (or difficulties with an online Application submission), please e-mail Latisha Porter-Vaughn, Scholarship Committee Chair ([latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:latisha.porter-vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org)). Good Luck!