



## The Greater PineBelt Community Foundation The Merchants Company Scholarship Fund

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Merchants Company Scholarship is to provide an annual scholarship to a deserving high school senior who has been accepted to accredited college or university or to a deserving high school graduate currently enrolled in an accredited two and/or four year college or university. This scholarship was established by The Merchants Company for the purpose of providing financial aid for The Merchants Company's employees and family members who want to pursue a higher education.

The recipient will be a person graduating with a sound record of achievement in his or her studies. This annual award will also consider extra-curricular activities and recognition of leadership ability in the selection process.

### SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Merchants Company Scholarship Fund will make available a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to a qualified candidate who will attend or is attending an accredited two and/or four year college or university. The scholarship is renewable for up to 4 years, and applicants must submit a new application and official transcript **each** academic year for renewal. (**NOTE: Transcript must be in an unopened envelope, sealed by the school**)

### CRITERIA

In making a decision, the Scholarship Advisory Committee will use the following criteria:

- Relationship to a Merchants Company Employee
- Scholastic Achievements
- Acceptance to an accredited college or university
- Extracurricular Activities

### ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be related to an employee of The Merchants Company. (Note: relationship to employee does not include cousin, in-law, or friend of employee)
- Applicants must be a citizen of the United States of America.
- Applicants must be accepted or enrolled as full-time student **with a minimum of 12 semester hours.**
- **Renewal Applicants** currently enrolled in college, community and/or junior college must maintain a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale to be eligible and must provide an official transcript in an **unopened** envelope sealed by the college attending.

- **New Applicants** desiring to return to college after an extended absence must have maintained a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and must provide an official transcript in a sealed envelope from the college last attended.
- **New High School Applicants** must have a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale or an ACT score of 18/SAT score of 870 (*whichever is greater*) and must provide an official transcript in an **unopened** envelope sealed by the high school currently attending that **includes the first semester of senior year**.

## NOTIFICATION

Applicants will be notified by mail about the status of their application no later than April 15. Scholarship funds will be distributed directly to the institution of the applicant's choice no later than July 1.

## GUIDELINES

Each complete application must *be received* by the Scholarship Advisory Committee by **February 15<sup>th</sup>**.

- Completed application form
- Official high school and/or post-secondary school transcripts (Must be in an **unopened** envelope sealed by the school)
- Copy of ACT or SAT score for those entering college for the first time (not necessary for those who have already been granted the scholarship previously)
- Completed application should be mailed to:

The Merchants Company Scholarship Advisory Committee  
Post Office Box 388  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-0388

## QUESTIONS

Contact the PineBelt Foundation at 601.583.6180 or [pinebeltcf@bellsouth.net](mailto:pinebeltcf@bellsouth.net)

Or Debbie Ingram 601.544.6043 ext 401 or [deb@tatumdev.com](mailto:deb@tatumdev.com)

Or Jan Farve 601.584.4046 or [jfarve@merchantsfoodservice.com](mailto:jfarve@merchantsfoodservice.com)



## THE MERCHANTS COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

(Application is for the School Year beginning in the Fall & ending in the Spring)

### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employee under whom Applicant is applying: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Employee: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Branch Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

ACT Score: \_\_\_\_\_ or SAT Score: \_\_\_\_\_

College and/or university you plan to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Major/Career Goals: \_\_\_\_\_

List honors/awards/scholastic achievements that you have received in the last four years:

Award/Honor/Achievement	Year Received

List school or community activities that have been most significant to you during the last four years:

Activity	Position Held	Involved from (mm/yyyy):	Involved to (mm/yyyy):

Name and amounts of any scholarships you expect to receive:  
***(Please do not apply if you are receiving a full scholarship, including books from another source)***

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I certify that all information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I may be asked to provide proof of information stated on this form.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT'S STATUS**

- Renewable Scholarship Applicant
- New Applicant – High School Senior
- New Applicant – College

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

I have included one copy of the following:

- Completed application form
- High school and/or post-secondary school transcripts
- Copy of ACT or SAT score

**Completed application must be received  
at the address below by February 15:**

**The Merchants Company Scholarship Advisory Committee**  
Post Office Box 388  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-0388