

Scholarship Description

A \$500 scholarship is available in recognition of a student at Hammond High School who responds with care and concern towards the needs of others and has the ability to bring humor to the serious business of life.

About Mike Chang

This scholarship is offered in memory of Mike Chang, a 1995 graduate of Hammond High School. Mike's combination of zany humor and genuine compassion left a strong impression on those who knew him. The Columbia native had "a heart of gold", always lent a sympathetic ear and built his life around helping others. He led a life filled with friends and family.

Mike was a county and regional wrestling champion and was inducted into the Hammond Wrestling Hall of Fame. His classmates elected him Hammond's senior prom king. He excelled in many areas and graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in studio art. He worked as a certified personal trainer in California while founding the Verge magazine. His career goal, before his death in a motorcycle accident, was to become a professional stunt man.

The Mike Chang Sunshine Fund was established by the family and numerous lifelong friends, who all agree he brought "sunshine" to their lives.

Eligibility Criteria

Candidates for the **Mike Chang Sunshine Scholarship** must:

1. Attend Hammond High School in Howard County, Maryland;
2. Respond with care and concern towards the needs of others and have the ability to bring humor to the serious business of life;
3. Plan to attend a two- or four-year college/university or trade school; and,
4. Have an unweighted 3.0 or higher cumulative grade point average through Grade 11. In addition, an unweighted grade point average of 3.0 or higher must be maintained through the first semester of Grade 12.

Application Criteria

Applications for the **Mike Chang Sunshine Scholarship** must include:

1. A complete and signed application form;
2. A response to the following questions/statements, using examples drawn from their life experience and which are not present in their transcripts and/or resume:
 - a. Describe your educational plans,
 - b. Describe your career goals,
 - c. Describe the value of humor and service in your life, and
 - d. Statement on financial need, if applicable;
3. A resume that outlines the candidates work history from Grade 9 through 12, highlights special awards and achievements, and describes community service;

4. One confidential personal letter of recommendation;
5. One confidential statement from an academic teacher or employment supervisor that addresses the following questions:
 - a. How does this student respond with care and concern towards the needs of others?
 - b. How does this student bring humor to the serious business of life?; and
6. An unofficial high school transcript through Grade 11; and,
7. An unofficial copy of the first semester Grade 12 report card.

Students are responsible for ensuring that all components of the application are submitted by the due date.

Evaluation Criteria

The Hammond High School administration, in compliance with Foundation policy, will **recommend one** applicant to forward to the Community Foundation of Howard County for final review and approval. All applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Compliance with eligibility criteria;
2. Student essay
3. Student resume;
4. Demonstration of the value of humor in life and showing care and concern for others;
5. Confidential letter of recommendation;
6. Confidential statement;
7. Strength of student's transcript; and,
8. Financial need will be considered in the case of a tie.

Award Notification and Acceptance

The Foundation will provide applicants with updates and award decisions via the online application system.

The selected applicant will receive a certificate at the schools Senior Awards Ceremony and, upon receipt by the Foundation of the required materials, the scholarship will be sent to the accredited institution.

Questions

The Community Foundation of Howard County can address questions about this scholarship program.

About the Community Foundation of Howard County

Founded in 1969 as The Columbia Foundation, the Community Foundation of Howard County has awarded more than \$17 million in grants to Howard County nonprofit organizations delivering human service, arts and cultural, educational and civic programs. Money for the grant programs comes primarily from income generated by the Foundation's endowment supported by more than 300 funds established by Howard County businesses, families and individuals.