AFCEA
Central Maryland Chapter – Education Foundation
ATTN: AFCEA Scholarships, P.O. Box 908, Savage, MD 20763
scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org

2019-2020 Merit Scholarship Award

Who: This scholarship is for graduating high school seniors who want to pursue a STEM education followed by a career in the Defense, Intelligence, or Homeland Security communities.

What: Each scholarship is an award of $10,000, $2,500 for each year of a four-year academic education. This scholarship can be used to achieve education goals at the accredited school of their choice anywhere in the nation. All Merit Scholarships are STEM based. This is for a full-time student attending a four-year institution. Multiple Merit Scholarships are available.

Requirements: Applicants must:

• Be an academically-competitive, well-rounded, graduating high school senior.
• Attend a public or private high school in Baltimore City or one of the following Central Maryland counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, or northern Prince George’s.
• Be a U.S. Citizen.
• Have a cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.
• Have a Math SAT score of at least 650 or a Math ACT score of at least 27.
• Plan to enter a field of study supportive of national defense (i.e., systems engineering, software engineering, math, cyber, information technology, electrical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, physics, mechanical engineering, materials science, or engineering relating to IT, communications, and electronics) and can apply their studies directly to the Intelligence Community, homeland security, or national defense objectives.

Please note: If you plan to pursue a degree in other sciences to include pre-med, pre-law, biology, environmental, or any form of engineering not listed in this section, you are unlikely to be considered for this scholarship. If unsure, please email scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org to clarify.

• Stay in a field of study supportive of national defense for each of the applicant’s four years and graduate.

Please note: the Cyber Studies Merit Scholarship is specifically for those applicants interested in pursuing career goals within cyber (i.e., cyber security, information assurance).

Maintenance: Scholarship recipients must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 to retain the scholarship for all four years. Recipients may change majors provided the new major is a science and engineering field of study supportive of national defense as indicated above. Recipient must submit a transcript for review at the end of each school year with a status form (to be sent to the recipient in June) to report how their studies are progressing to be eligible to receive the next payment as the scholarship is paid out over four years.

Ceremonies: Scholarship recipients will be notified in late February/early March, 2020. The AFCEA Central Maryland Chapter will invite recipients and their parents to an Awards Night reception and dinner honoring them in early May, 2020.

See next page for application information – what is required and the link to access the application online.

All interested students must submit their completed applications online by December 20, 2019.
Application: Student scholarship submissions must include all of the following items: (Applicants will receive email from the Scholarship Committee chair as materials are received. If applicant does not get an email, reach out to the email address above.)

1. A completed application form submitted online at [https://centralmd.afceachapters.org/merit-scholarship-application](https://centralmd.afceachapters.org/merit-scholarship-application) which includes general information about the applicant. (Sample application details the info to be submitted.)

2. A **750-1000 word essay** written by the applicant addressing: 1. How your activities (i.e., academic studies, extra-curricular activities, and volunteering, employment, sports, etc.) to date have prepared you for the future and 2. How your collegiate study of systems engineering, software engineering, math, cyber, information technology, electrical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, physics, mechanical engineering, materials science, or engineering relating to IT, communications, or electronics might prepare you for a career supporting intelligence, homeland security, or national defense objectives (submit with on-line application).

3. A **resume** from the applicant detailing, at a minimum, accomplishments, work experience, and community involvement.

4. An **official, certified high school transcript** of completed courses and grades mailed directly from the high school to the address above or emailed directly from the high school to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org.

5. A copy of the applicant’s SAT or ACT scores from the testing center. Email the report that you receive from the testing center to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org. Please note: AFCEA is not listed as a site that scores be sent to. Be sure that the report has your full name on it.

6. **Two letters of recommendation:** one letter must be from an academic person (i.e., a school official – teacher, principal) and the second letter must be from a non-academic person (i.e., a person outside of school – clergy, a person you work/intern for, a volunteer leader, a coach). **Letters from school counselors are not acceptable.** Letters should be specific to this scholarship and not be letters that are for entry to a university or college. Letters may be emailed to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org. Please be sure to follow up with the persons who are emailing letters of recommendation to ensure that they have submitted them.

Note: On-line application will be available after October 7th. Thank you for your patience.