

News release

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West Virginia Housing Institute Inc. announces new scholarship program

CHARLESTON -- Co-Presidents George Gunnell and Kevin Wilfong and the 14-member board of directors of the West Virginia Housing Institute Inc. announced a new scholarship program Friday for the manufactured and modular housing industry to assist customers and industry employees.

Three college scholarships of \$1,000 each will be chosen at a random drawing each January and awarded to the purchaser, or his or her family, of a manufactured or modular home, or an industry person, or his or her family, whose company is a member of WVHI.

The customer must have purchased a home during the calendar year prior to the January drawing to be eligible. For example, a customer buying a home anytime in 2014 would be eligible for the January 2015 drawing. An industry member must have worked in the industry during that year. His or her family is also eligible.

Eligible students must attend college full time and maintain at least a 2.5 academic average during the fall semester prior to the drawing. They also must provide college-generated proof they are carrying a full academic schedule for the spring semester. The student must be attending a West Virginia institution of higher learning.

"We wanted to provide what we believe will be a very attractive marketing tool for our retail centers while also encouraging students to go to college in West Virginia," Gunnell said. "It should be an outstanding program for us with the potential for future expansion."

"One of the keys we sought was simplicity," Wilfong said. "We have cut red tape to the barest minimum while expanding the eligibility pool to the maximum. If you are in college, or planning to go to college, and you maintain a 2.5 average during your eligibility semester, and are going full-time next semester, then you are automatically a candidate for our scholarship."

"We wanted to make sure all students are eligible for our scholarships, not just those with an A-average," board member Don Sharp, who promoted the scholarship program, said. "We have eliminated the need to write an essay. And our program rewards a student for a good semester. In effect, the student is paid by us for having a successful year, not just for going to college."

Names of all candidates will be placed in a drawing and three will be chosen. When WVHI verifies they have met program requirements, a check on their behalf will be written to the school they are attending. If a candidate is eliminated, a replacement will be chosen.

Eligibility forms must be filed through the retailer where a home is purchased or verified by a manager if the candidate or family member is a staffer.

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