



## 2022 PbS J. Russell "Russ" Jennings Scholarship Award

### Application

The PbS J. Russell "Russ" Jennings Scholarship Award was established in honor of J. Russell "Russ" Jennings to support post-secondary and vocational technical education opportunities for young people with lived experience in the juvenile justice system. The awards are designed to ensure young people have the resources they need to start and finish a two-year educational or vocational program.

Russ Jennings believed in change. He committed his professional career to helping those he worked with live up to their highest potential. His work with young people in juvenile justice facilities and programs spanned more than 40 years, from the east to the west coasts as well as his home state of Kansas until he passed away in 2021. He believed young people just needed opportunities and encouragement to be successful, and he worked tirelessly to provide both. This scholarship continues his legacy of improving young lives.

Thanks to Russ' generosity, the generosity of his family and friends who donated in his memory, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the PbS Education and Employment Foundation is offering two scholarships of \$15,000 each. The funds are intended to provide support for a young person from the start to finish of a two-year educational or vocational program or certification. Applicants must describe their plan for the next two years as best they can, including the sequence of courses to be taken to earn the degree or certification and the expected expenses using the attached Program Completion Plan. The awardees will be expected to maintain a grade point average of a B or higher (or equivalent) and check in at least twice a month with their PbS mentor, a young person who was incarcerated, won two PbS scholarships, and is eager to provide the type of support he wished had been available to him. The mentor will be available as needed to provide advice, tools, connections to resources, and other supports to ensure the completion of the educational or vocational program. The funds are to be used for tuition, books and materials, but may also be used for other related expenses needed to ensure the program's completion. Awardees will be asked to sign a Commitment Contract agreeing to work to meet the goal of completing the program.

Applications will be judged based on the quality of the essay, the thoughtfulness of the program completion plan, the demonstrated commitment to completing the program and launching their careers, and how well the applicants exemplify Russ' kindness, humor, and belief in setting high goals and doing their very best to achieve them. PbS will use a two-part process to select the awardees:

- 1) An internal review panel will select up to five finalists from all eligible applicants to be interviewed by the PbS mentor. The interview information will be added to the application packets and presented to the Scholarship Review Panel.
- 2) The Scholarship Review Panel will score each finalist application to determine the two awardees.

Applicants' stories will be shared (anonymously if desired) to help raise awareness and funds for future scholarships.

This round of scholarships is targeting programs starting in the fall of 2022, but other starting dates will be considered. Please complete the following information and return by **April 1, 2022**. Awardees will be notified in early May. Please direct questions to the PbS Help Desk at: [help@pbstandards.org](mailto:help@pbstandards.org)

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

In order to qualify for this scholarship, the applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a current or recent resident of a PbS participating facility or program,
- Be enrolled in or in the process of enrolling in an accredited post-secondary school (college, university, trade school, or certificate program) and
- Demonstrate the ability and commitment to maintain a grade point average of a B or higher (or equivalent) and communicating with their PbS mentor on their progress and experiences twice a month.

### **APPLICANT INFORMATION**

**Full Name:**

**Name of Facility or Program:**

**Mailing Address:**

**Email Address for applicant:**

**Email Address for facility contact:**

**Telephone number to reach applicant:**

*At least one email address is required for communication throughout the two-year period. If possible, the applicant provides their own email address as well as the email address of a staff member whom they trust.*

## THE COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET MUST INCLUDE:

1. The PbS Scholarship application form.
2. An essay, containing 200-250 words, explaining your educational and career goals and how over the next two years you expect to achieve them. What do you want to do? How do you want to use your education and skills to contribute to the community? What are you passionate about and why?
3. Two (2) letters of recommendation. The recommendations should speak to the applicant's commitment to furthering their education, ability to finish the program and meet with the PbS mentor and a description of the applicant's values.
4. Documentation and/or verification of acceptance into the educational or vocational program. If not available at the time of applying, must be submitted as soon as possible.
5. A completed Program Completion Plan with as much detail as possible. We understand much may be unknown but want to be sure there is a thoughtful plan to use the funds.

The completed application package must be mailed, emailed or uploaded online by 11:59 pm EDT **April 1, 2022**. Applicants will be notified by April 15<sup>th</sup> if they have been selected to move to the next round of interviews. Interviews will be scheduled between April 18<sup>th</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Mail:

PbS Learning Institute, Inc.  
Attention: PbS Education and Employment Foundation  
350 Granite Street, Suite 1203  
Braintree, MA 02184

*Applications with a postmark date on or before April 1, 2022 will be considered.*

### Email:

[help@pbstandards.org](mailto:help@pbstandards.org)

### Web Upload:

<https://pbstandards.org/awards/scholarship>