



Pennsylvania - Delaware Chapter
Association for the Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired
www.penn-delaer.org

2021 Penn-Del AER Student Scholarship Invitation Letter

The Penn-Del Chapter of AER is pleased to announce the **2021 Student Scholarship Award** for a student member of Penn-Del AER Chapter. One worthy student recipient will be awarded \$1000 and a voucher to cover the transitional year for AER membership. This is an amazing opportunity, why not consider applying!

In the past, the Student Scholarship Award has been presented at the Awards Banquet held during the Penn-Del AER Conference. In 2020, the Awards Banquet became an Awards Event held virtually due to the pandemic.

The Penn-Del AER Board of Directors gave the Awards Committee the green light to proceed with planning the annual awards event. The 2021 Penn-Del AER Awards Event will be held virtually on the evening of Thursday, April 22, 2021.

If you are a current student member of Penn-Del AER, that is all you need. If you are not a member, apply for membership. It is inexpensive and well-worth the chance of being handed a check (or in this case, mailed a check) for \$1000!

“What is AER?” you ask:

The mission of AER is to serve and empower professionals to deliver standards-based practices that lead to improved educational and rehabilitative outcomes for individuals with visual impairment and blindness.

AER is a not-for-profit membership organization dedicated exclusively to professionals who provide services to persons with vision loss. Our aim is to promote and support the professions by advocating for evidence-based practices, high quality standards, value added resources and give voice to issues of critical importance. AER provides professional development via face-to-face conferences, virtual offerings and publications to strengthen the knowledge, skills and abilities of professionals within the field. AER provides networking, mentoring, connectivity, awards and scholarships for professionals to advance excellence within the field. Our aim is to ensure that persons with vision loss will have optimal gains and greater independence by giving timely, intentional and value-added support to professionals in the field.

Penn-Del AER is a chapter within AER representing professionals in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

As the next generation of professionals in a low incidence field, your membership in AER is needed and valued. Being a member of a professional organization such as AER is about the subtle contribution YOU make to preserve the integrity of the service you and other

professionals in the field of vision impairment deliver. The Penn-Del AER Board welcomes you as future colleagues and encourages you to join AER.

As students:

- Student Membership is significantly reduced to \$98 for one year (undergraduate or graduate).
- Transition Membership is a reduced membership to support your continued membership through your first year as a professional.
- Regular Membership begins during your second year of teaching.

To learn more about AER International, go to [AER](#). To view the activity of our local chapter, go to: [Penn-Del AER](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#).

The Awards Committee looks forward to reviewing YOUR submission for scholarship consideration!

Regards,
Brenda Egan
Penn-Del AER Board of Directors
Awards Committee, Chair

2021 Penn-Del AER Student Scholarship Application Preparation and Submission Details

Scholarship Award Benefit

One Penn-Del AER student member will be selected to receive a competitive \$1000 Student Scholarship and have your AER Transitional Membership covered by the Penn-Del AER Chapter.

Description

This competitive scholarship is for a full or part-time student majoring in the following certification areas: Low Vision Therapy (LVT), Orientation and Mobility (O&M), Rehabilitation Counseling, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI), or Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT).

Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral program at an accredited college or university. All applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher in the major field of study. Applicants must live or work within the states of Pennsylvania or Delaware but need not be enrolled within a program in Pennsylvania or Delaware. A student may only receive this scholarship once and must be a current member of the Penn-Del AER Chapter.

Selection

Selection is based on the evaluation of the materials submitted for examination by the Penn-Del AER awards committee. A scoring rubric is used to assign point values to application requirements.

Deadline

All applications must be received by February 1, 2021. The recipient will be notified by the end of February. The award will be presented at the Penn-Del AER Virtual Awards Event on Thursday, April 22, 2021.

To Apply

All applicants must provide the following information for scholarship consideration:

1. Completed application cover page.
2. Most recent transcript(s) reflecting current certification and/or degree program in the field of visual impairment.
3. Two letters of recommendation, including one NOT related to applicant's educational institution.
4. Two-page essay explaining a) why you have chosen your specific field, and b) what you would like to contribute upon program completion. Include a short description of any c) involvement with individuals with disabilities as a volunteer, paid professional, or both.
5. Copy of AER membership card or proof of recent membership.

Upon Acceptance

If you are accepted as the recipient of the scholarship, be prepared to:

1. Submit a recent photo and a short bio for our website and program.
2. Prepare a few comments to accept the award during the Virtual Awards Event on Thursday, April 22, 2021.
3. Attend the Virtual Awards Reception held after the event where you will have the opportunity to mingle and receive much-deserved congratulations from fellow colleagues.

Note: Applications that do not include proof of AER membership or do not provide all of the items listed above will not be considered.

Submission

Submit completed application along with a list of each attachment via email by Monday, February 1, 2021 to Brenda Egan at began1723@gmail.com.