



**Pennsylvania - Delaware Chapter**  
**Association for the Education and Rehabilitation**  
**of the Blind and Visually Impaired**

[www.penn-delaer.org](http://www.penn-delaer.org)

December 2018

The Penn-Del Chapter of AER is pleased to announce the **2019 Student Scholarship Award** for a student member of Penn-Del AER. 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!

The student scholarship award is presented each year at the Awards Banquet held during the Penn-Del AER Conference in Harrisburg, PA. This year's conference will be held April 24 - 26, 2019 with the banquet commencing on Thursday evening, April 25.

If you are a current student member of AER, that's all you need. If you are not a member, apply for membership. It's inexpensive and well-worth the chance of being handed 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:

The Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) supports professionals who provide education & rehabilitation services to people with visual impairments.

- Student Membership is significantly reduced to \$98 for one year.
- Transition Membership is a reduced membership (\$144) to support your continued membership through your first year as a professional.
- Regular Membership begins during your second year of teaching and is currently \$175 per year.

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](#).

I look forward to reviewing YOUR submission for scholarship consideration!

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



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## **2019 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 (a \$144 value) 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 18, 2019. The recipient will be notified by March 18, 2019 and the award will be presented at the Penn-Del AER Awards Banquet on April 25, 2019.

#### **To Apply**

All applicants must provide the following information for scholarship consideration:

1. Completed application cover page.

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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 why you have chosen your specific field and what you would like to contribute upon program completion. Include a short description of any involvement with individuals with disabilities as a volunteer and/or professional.
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 the Conference Program.
2. Attend the 2019 Penn-Del AER Conference, April 24-26, 2019.
3. Prepare a few comments to accept the award during the Awards Banquet on April 25.
4. Attend the Awards Reception held after the banquet where you will have the opportunity to mingle and receive much-deserved congratulations from fellow colleagues.
5. The Penn-Del AER Board will cover the cost of a hotel room for one night for you or your guest(s) and the cost of the banquet meal for you and two additional guests. Additional banquet meal tickets can be purchased.

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

## Submission

Submit completed application via email by February 18, 2019 to:

Brenda Egan  
148 Crossing Ridge Trail  
Cranberry Twp, PA 16066  
[began1723@gmail.com](mailto:began1723@gmail.com)