

1. Overview of the Award

1.1 The Award - The WPIAL/JIM COLLINS SCHOLAR/ATHLETE AWARD is a WPIAL program whose goal is to recognize and to honor young men and women in our member schools who excel in, athletics, academics, and school/community service involvement.

1.2 The Sponsors - The award is sponsored and funded by the WPIAL Board of Directors, WPIAL/JAMES COLLINS Scholarship Trust Fund, and Come Ready Nutrition.

1.3 The Award Criteria - Recipients of the awards will be selected based on three criteria: athletics 50%, academics 35%, and school/community service 15%.

1.4 The Awards - The selected male (10) and female (10) athletes will be awarded \$1,000.00 each to attend the college of their choice. Exception: see 8.2

1.5 Equal Opportunity - The kinds of excellence that the WPIAL/JIM COLLINS SCHOLAR/ATHLETE Award and the WPIAL Board of Directors seek to honor know no distinctions based on race, color, religion, national origin, or any other criteria other than personal drive, dedication, ability, and achievement.

2. Eligibility and the Nomination Process

2.1 Who is Eligible - Anyone who is a full-time student in their final year of high school in a WPIAL member school, except anyone who is a professional athlete or who is the son or daughter of an employee of the WPIAL or the relative of a sitting member of the Board of Directors.

NOTE: Students who accept athletic scholarships from an NCAA school may have eligibility concerns with these scholarships.

2.2 Who May Nominate - Nominations **must** be made by a WPIAL member **school Principal**.

2.3 Other Nomination Materials - Nominees may submit a testimonial letter from a person other than the principal who is familiar with them and with their accomplishments.

2.4 Nomination Deadline - All materials are due in the League office by 3 PM, Wed. February 28, 2018. There will be no exceptions or extensions.

***Materials received after this date will not be accepted. *Faxes will not be accepted.
*Postmarks will not be considered.**

2.5 Where to Send Materials – Send the nomination form and materials:

**WPIAL/JIM COLLINS Scholarship Award
615 Iron City Drive STE 300
Pittsburgh PA 15205**

2.6 Rejected Nominations - Nomination materials will be rejected if they are not typewritten, missing required signatures, failure to include required information, and an official high school transcript.

2.7 Verification - The WPIAL reserves the right to request additional written or documentary information in support of any statement contained in the nomination materials, before considering such statement in the selection process.

3. The Selection Criteria

3.1 Athletics - Excellence in athletics will usually be demonstrated by measurable achievement on the court or playing field. The program includes students who have excelled in individual sports as well as team sports. The goal is to select outstanding young athletes, whatever their sport and activity. Participation in WPIAL sponsored sports/activities only, will be considered.

3.2 Academics - Academic excellence is not always reflected by such objective measures as grades, test scores, or class ranking. There are students who excel academically and who may for one reason or another not tested well, or whose grade averages have been adversely affected by illness, or personal difficulties. The program and the WPIAL are looking for students who meet this broader definition of academic excellence.

3.3 School/Community Service - All school-related activities will be considered in this area, including such things as band, forensics, student government, etc. Student leadership positions and responsibilities are important. The WPIAL specifically includes in their consideration, non-traditional forms of community service, care of an elderly neighbor, participation in a youth club, involved in anti-drug activities, involvement in local efforts to maintain a clean and healthy environment.

3.4 Weighing of the Criteria – On a 10.0 scale, athletics is given a weight of 5.0 (50%), academics 3.5 (35%), and school/community service 1.5 (15%)

4. The Selection Process

4.1 Certifying - Shortly after the deadline, the Selection Committee will review all nomination forms to ensure that they are complete.

4.2 Application of Criteria - The Selection Committee will apply the three-program criteria to identify young men and women who best demonstrate excellence in all three award criteria. Twenty students will be designated as Recipients.

4.3 Disqualification - The WPIAL reserves the right to disqualify a nominee if in the opinion of the committee the individual acts in such a way that may bring them or the program into disrepute.

4.4 Notification –The WPIAL will promptly notify the recipient's schools principal of his or her selection.

4.5 Selection Committee - The Selection Committee is appointed by the President of the WPIAL with the consent of the WPIAL Board of Directions.

5. Awards

5.1 Scholarships – Ten male and ten female recipients will receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship.

5.2 Uses of Scholarship Funds - If any of the awardees are unable to accept the scholarship because of NCAA rule/regulation, the funds will remain in the scholarship fund to be used in that awardees name to benefit future WPIAL/JIM COLLINS Scholar Athletes. If disqualified for any other reason, the funds must be returned to the WPIAL for deposit into the Scholarship fund.

6. The Awards and Ceremonies

6.1 WPIAL Presentation - The WPIAL will request the presence of the awardees at an awards ceremony. The *principal is strongly encouraged* to attend along with the parents and athletic director. The time and place will be communicated in a timely fashion.

6.2 School Presentation - The WPIAL agrees to send a representative to the school for an official award ceremony at a time determined by the school principal.

6.3 Releases - Each Recipient agrees to permit the release of the award to the media and agrees to the use of his or her name and likeness in connection with publicity for the program and the possible recording and broadcast of the awards ceremony.

6.4 Media - The WPIAL/JIM COLLINS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD Program asks that Recipients; school personnel and their parents are cooperative in dealing with media representatives.

7. Other Awards

7.1 Plaques - The Scholarship Committee will determine the top ten male and female nominees who will receive a WPIAL Plaque.

7.2 Certificates - All nominees not designated as top ten finishers will receive a WPIAL Certificate in recognition of their accomplishment.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1 These Rules – are set up for the basic structure of the WPIAL/JIM COLLINS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD and are written to address the principle questions that Nominators, Nominees, and Recipients will ask. They are not, however, intended to be legally binding upon the WPIAL, nor do they constitute the terms of a contract or an offer to contract. The rules may be changed periodically (although they will not be changed retroactively) by the sponsors without notice.

8.2 Schools with all male or female enrollments may only nominate ONE candidate.

8.3 FAXES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

8.4 GUIDANCE COUNSELOR must complete and sign the GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT section as indicated.

Program Criteria

Be advised that areas of consideration are listed below with Athletics being first, and most significant, with academics second and service third.

Athletics

Excellence in athletics will usually be demonstrated by measurable achievement on the court or playing field. We want to include students who have excelled in individual sports as well as team sports. Our goal is to select outstanding young athletes, whatever their sport(s) or activities. Participation, athletic excellence, leadership, and sportsmanship in multiple sports will be given the highest consideration.

Academics

Academic excellence is not always reflected solely by such objective measures as grades, test scores, or class ranking. There are students who excel academically and yet who may for one reason or another not test well, or whose grade averages has been pulled down by illness, or personal difficulties. We are looking for students who meet this broader definition of academic excellence.

School/Community Service

All school-related activities such as band, forensics, student government, etc. should be included in this area. Student leadership positions and responsibilities should be described in full.

In evaluating a young person's service to the community, it is necessary to take context into account. We specifically want to include in our consideration non-traditional forms of community service. These might include care of the elderly, participation in a youth club, involvement in anti-drug activities, or involvement in local efforts to maintain a clean and healthy environment.