



## ANN C. WELLS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF STEM FIELDS

### Scholarship Background

Ann Caldwell Wells had deep Virginia roots. Born and raised on a small farm outside Lynchburg, Ann helped her father with all manner of farming chores and learned to drive the family tractor at a young age, instilling independence and an early understanding that abilities were unrelated to gender.

Supported by a family that believed in education, Ann was an "A" student in chemistry and mathematics, graduating with honors from Lynchburg College in 1965 and earning a Master's degree in Education from the University of Virginia when she was 55. Ann started her career in education as a general science and chemistry teacher for Campbell County Schools,



serving in that capacity for nearly 20 years. She was then promoted to Supervisor of Math & Science, where she served in the central office for another 16 years. Ann Wells passed away from cancer in 2011. She is survived by her two children, Kimberly Wells Bell and David Bolling Wells, and by five grandchildren. David graduated from the Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology (CVGS) in 1989. He and his wife, Sonya Moore-Wells, have established this scholarship to honor David's mother and share her love of education and STEM fields by helping support the higher education of two deserving CVGS graduates each year.

### Scholarship Award

This scholarship provides an annual total of up to \$15,000 each for one male and one female recipient. These funds shall be used to help cover the costs of attending a four-year college or university in the United States. Such costs may include tuition, room and board, required fees, textbooks, and technology. Recipients will be eligible to renew this \$15,000 award for three additional years, for a total of \$60,000 over four years.

### Scholarship Eligibility

Recipients shall be selected annually from the pool of applicants, each of whom must be a twelfth grade student enrolled in the Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology. In addition, applicants must make a declaration of intent to attend a four-year college or university in the United States and pursue a major in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field. Both US citizens and eligible non-citizens as defined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) may apply. Please note that students who have already received a commitment for a full scholarship to attend college, as well as relatives of current CVGS staff, are not eligible.

### **Selection Criteria for Finalists**

The scholarship selection criteria include consideration of past academic performance, performance on standardized tests, financial need, and student essays. Applicants will complete and submit the application, along with all required forms, to the CVGS Program Coordinator by the application deadline.

Committee members will rank the completed applications holistically, focusing on both

- 1) academic achievement and scholarly characteristics demonstrated specifically at the Governor's School and
- 2) financial need as evidenced by all required forms and as stated in the essays.

Each committee member will consider both academic merit and financial need as he or she independently ranks the applicants. In the case of tie rankings, the committee member will consider evidence of student leadership, community involvement, student initiative, and resilience. As a final note, while achievement at the base high school will be considered in the academic merit component, direct comparisons of Grade Point Averages among students from different base high schools will not occur due to the different courses available and GPA weighting practices among the ten high schools that participate in the CVGS.

### **Notification of Scholarship Selection**

All applicants will receive a letter thanking them for their application. The two who are selected for the scholarships will be informed that they have been selected and asked to keep that information confidential, telling only their immediate family. The selected students will then be formally announced at the CVGS annual Recognition Reception.

### **Scholarship Renewal**

In the spring each scholarship winner will submit an application for scholarship renewal for up to \$15,000 annually. The scholarship can be renewed each year for a total of four years of financial support. Renewal requires that the student demonstrate evidence of 1) participation and planned continuation in a STEM major, 2) a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and 3) continuing financial need for allowable expenses (tuition, room and board, required fees, textbooks, and technology) for undergraduate study. Each year any unexpended scholarship funds will remain with the scholarship endowment.

### **Questions about Scholarship**

If you have any questions about the Ann C. Wells Memorial Scholarship or the application or selection process, please contact the President/CEO of the Central Virginia Governor's School Foundation. *For 2020-21, the President/CEO of the Central Virginia Governor's School Foundation is Dr. Stephen C. Smith. Dr. Smith can be reached at [ssmith@cvgs.k12.va.us](mailto:ssmith@cvgs.k12.va.us) or by phone at (434) 477-5980.*

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

### 1. Why does the scholarship award “up to” \$15,000 per year?

If a scholarship recipient has grants or other scholarships which result in less than \$15,000 in remaining allowable annual expenses, this scholarship will cover but not exceed that amount. Allowable expenses include tuition, room and board, required fees, textbooks, and an estimated \$1,000 for technology annually.

### 2. What is meant by “demonstrated academic achievement” in the selection criteria?

Each student who applies should have a minimum of a “B” average for semester course grades at CVGS.

### 3. What is meant by “scholarly characteristics” in the selection criteria?

Each student should have demonstrated a desire to learn, an attitude of personal responsibility for learning, and a willingness to work hard in the challenging courses at CVGS.

### 4. What is meant by “financial need” in the selection criteria?

Each student who applies will submit the Expected Family Contribution value from the FAFSA, the Financial Aid Award Letter from the school he or she plans to attend, and the amounts of other financial resources. In addition, each applicant should be able to articulate his or her level of financial need in the application essay section. As a broad guideline, a successful applicant would have modest assets and a gross annual household income less than \$80,000 for a typical family of four who will have one child in college.

### 5. How are the scholarship funds disbursed?

The first check for \$15,000 will be distributed to each winner in June. Then, renewal applications will be due by June 1 each year. Additional \$15,000 checks will be distributed in June to each winner who has successfully completed and submitted the renewal paperwork.

### 6. What is an “eligible non-citizen” as defined by the FAFSA?

Generally, you are an eligible noncitizen if you are one of the following:

- U.S. permanent resident, with a Permanent Resident Card,
- Conditional permanent resident (I-551C)
- Other eligible noncitizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: “Refugee,” “Asylum Granted,” “Indefinite Parole,” “Humanitarian Parole,” or “Cuban-Haitian Entrant”
- A citizen of the Republic of Palau (PW), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (MH), or the Federated States of Micronesia (FM).