

## **Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation** **2019 *Make All the Difference* Scholarship Overview**

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.”

from “*The Road Not Taken*” by Robert Frost

In education, as in other walks of life, the traditional paths are the ones most traveled. In school, for example, the majority of students “travel” from kindergarten through grade 12 in regular education, graduate and go to college or directly into the workforce.

There is another road, one less traveled. Along that road you will find students who, by choice or circumstance, are in alternative programs. The Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation funds scholarships for students for whom alternative programs have “made all the difference.”

### **About the Scholarships**

Scholarships are for post-high school education or training and are for a maximum of \$5,000. Up to 50% of the total scholarship is available per semester. The amount of a scholarship award to any one student must be used within two years. Recipients are only eligible for one *Make All the Difference Scholarship* award in their lifetime.

Scholarships may be applied toward tuition, books, supplies, support services (such as case manager assistance), specialized equipment or accommodations, or other needs approved by the Foundation Board that may augment student potential. In all cases, recipients need to provide documentation of how the scholarship monies will be used before funds will be approved and released. Final decision of the eligibility of any expenditure is at the discretion of the Foundation Board. Recipients must be enrolled in post-high school education or training to receive funds.

Each year, the Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation Board determines the size of the scholarship allocation, and total number of scholarships. Typically, the Board awards at least twelve scholarships of up to \$5,000 each.

### **Eligibility**

Students eligible for *Make All the Difference Scholarships* are enrolled, either by choice or circumstance, in one of the following eligible programs through Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES or one of its component districts: a) career and technical education of one full year or longer (other than New Visions), b) high school equivalency (GED/TASC), c) special education with an IEP or d) other alternative programs of at least one year such as Westside Academy or similar district-based programs. Applicants must successfully complete high school in the current school year.

The amount of a scholarship award to any one student may be distributed over a two-year period. Continued eligibility over the disbursement period will depend on:

- The recipient’s demonstrating that he/she is using the funds appropriately for tuition and/or services for which the scholarship is intended, and
- The recipient’s status as a continuously enrolled student in the post-secondary program for which the scholarship was awarded. Scholarship awards will be adjusted based on enrollment status.

## **Selection Criteria**

*Make All the Difference Scholarships* recognize students who:

- Can show that their eligible programs have made a significant difference in their lives and prepared them for their future
- Have experiences and educational outcomes that are indicators of preparedness for future success
- Understand what they need to succeed; act on that self-awareness to develop strategies, and to find and use resources in high school and in planning for their future
- Have post-high school goals and a plan for reaching those goals
- Have positive character traits

## **Selection Committee**

The Educational Foundation Board annually designates a Scholarship Review Committee, comprised of representatives from the following groups: the Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation Board of Directors, component district superintendents and Boards of Education, the BOCES 2 Board, and BOCES 2 administrators. The Scholarship Review Committee is charged with reviewing applications for *Make All the Difference Scholarships* using the selection criteria created by the Board, and recommending recipients to the Board.

## **Selection Timeline**

Scholarship applications must be submitted to: Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES, *Make All the Difference Scholarship*, 3599 Big Ridge Road, Spencerport, NY 14559. Scholarship applications and all supporting materials must be received by **Friday, February 15, 2019**. The Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation Board will select scholarship recipients in early May. Applicants and districts will be notified by mail of the selection results no later than May 20, 2019.

## **Research**

The Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation is committed to improving educational success for students continuing in post-high school education or training. To that end, the Foundation will occasionally ask *Make All the Difference Scholarship* recipients for information about their post-high school experience. Information received is treated confidentially. No information will identify individual students. The recipients' participation in providing the information will help achieve the goal of improving access to educational success.

## **Fund Management**

The Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation Fund is overseen by the Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation Board of Directors and is maintained by the Rochester Area Community Foundation.