



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PFLAG Springfield Announces LGBTQ+ Scholarship Availability

PFLAG Springfield is dedicated to supporting post-secondary education for LGBTQ+ students in Southwest Missouri.

PFLAG Springfield will award a total of \$6,000 to three scholarship recipients who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. The Board of Directors invites LGBTQ+ students in Southwest Missouri to apply for a chance to earn one of three \$2,000 scholarships. The application is now available on PFLAG Springfield's website, pflagoftheozarks.org/scholarship, and scholars must submit their applications by March 1st, 2021.

For all youth, college and post-secondary training can be a time to safely explore one's identity while earning an education that will set them up for future success. However, youth in the LGBTQ+ community face the added challenge of discrimination on campus, which can deter students from completing their degree or certificate programs. On college campuses across the United States, only 26% of campuses prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, and only 16% prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression. Having support from trusted allies on campus as well as financial support from organizations like PFLAG Springfield helps LGBTQ+ youth to succeed in their postsecondary endeavors. PFLAG encourages educators and administrators to foster a safe, inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ students on campuses across Southwest Missouri.

"This scholarship affirms the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTQ+ students in Southwest Missouri, where sometimes students may not receive support from their family, friends, schools, or communities. PFLAG Springfield provides financial support in an effort to encourage students to feel pride in who they are and potential in what they can achieve," says Rachel Jamieson, Secretary of the PFLAG Springfield Board of Directors and coordinator of the scholarship program. PFLAG Springfield has distributed \$12,000 to nine scholarship recipients since 2018.

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

- self-identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community
- be a current resident of Missouri's Barry, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Douglas, Greene, Jasper, Laclede, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Ozark, Polk, Stone, Taney, Webster, or Wright counties
- be accepted to attend or currently enrolled in a post-secondary certificate or degree program

- have demonstrated community service to or have a desire to serve the LGBTQ+ community

The selection committee will review applicants based on written applications, letters of reference, and personal essays. Funds must be used toward educational expenses, and awards will be distributed directly to the school's financial aid department. Winners will be invited to accept their scholarship awards at a virtual reception on Sunday, May 16, 2021. Application instructions and more details can be found at <https://pflagoftheozarks.org/scholarship/>.

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PFLAG Springfield's mission is to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons and their families and friends through support, education, and advocacy. To become a member or make a donation, visit pflagoftheozarks.org.

Inquiries from the public can be directed to love@pflagoftheozarks.org. For more information, contact Rachel Jamieson by emailing rachel.jamieson@yahoo.com or calling 773-991-1464.