



CONNECTICUT Higher Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Noele R. Kidney
Noele.kidney@ct.gov
860-947-1800

ROBERTA B. WILLIS NEED-MERIT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD NOTICES SENT TO STUDENTS FOR 2024-25

HARTFORD – The Connecticut Office of Higher Education (OHE) today announced that it has sent out more than \$10 million in Roberta B. Willis Scholarship (RWSP) Need-Merit award notifications to students via email. This year, 2,282 students were offered a Need-Merit Scholarship – 292 more than last year.

“These scholarship awards are going to needy students who have excelled in high school and choose to attend a Connecticut college or university,” said Timothy D. Larson, OHE Commissioner, who added that last year, 63% of awardees lived in an Alliance District. “We want to keep our best and brightest right here in our state.”

“This state scholarship program is opening opportunities to pursue higher education for thousands of students in Connecticut and enabling them to follow their goals of earning a degree and advancing their careers,” Governor Ned Lamont said.

Designed to assist needy students who excel in the classroom, the Roberta B. Willis Need-Merit Scholarship gives priority to those students who are least able to contribute toward the cost of attending college. The award may be used at Connecticut's participating four-year public or private (non-profit) colleges and universities. This year, student awards range from \$3,800 to \$4,500 for full-time enrollment and \$1,900 to \$3,375 for those attending part-time.

Applications are submitted by Connecticut high school counselors. To be considered eligible, a student must be:

- a legal resident of Connecticut;
- be a secondary school senior or high school graduate;
- have a cumulative class rank in the top 20% at the end of their junior year for high school seniors (upon graduation for all others) or have combined scores (math, evidenced-based reading, and writing) of at least 1,200 or 25 or better on ACT;
- be attending an eligible Connecticut institution;
- have not previously received a baccalaureate degree;

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450 Columbus Boulevard · Suite 707 · Hartford, CT 06103-1841
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- have completed a Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by May 1st and received a valid Student Aid Index (SAI); and
- have an SAI below the maximum limit, which for the 2024-25 academic year is \$10,999.

Larson added that in addition to the RWSP Need-Merit scholarship awards, the agency will also be distributing RWSP Need-Based grant funds to Connecticut's participating colleges and universities. The individual institutions award RWSP Need-Based grant funds to students along with other grants and scholarships offered by the schools.

In addition to administering the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program and other student financial aid programs, the Office of Higher Education has oversight over the state's private colleges and universities' academic offerings, approval of Connecticut's private career schools and veterans' academic benefits, runs an Alternate Route to Teacher Certification program and houses Serve Connecticut, the state's Commission on Community Service, which administers AmeriCorps State grants and promotes service and volunteerism.

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