**Belinda S. Phillips Endowed Scholarships**

**Western Michigan University**

**Belinda S. Phillips:** By the age of six, Belinda Phillips knew she wanted to be a teacher. She held school in a playhouse in her grandparent’s backyard in Georgia, where she taught her four-year-old sister and at least one neighbor child to read. When Belinda was eight, her family moved to Decatur from Atlanta, Georgia.

An honor student and a leader, Belinda achieved her dream of teaching by graduating from Decatur High School with honors in 1966 and Western Michigan University in 1970. She taught high school French and English in Centerville, Michigan. Belinda married her high school sweetheart, also a teacher. They had two children, Shana and Nathan Bombrys. She died of leukemia one week before her 28th birthday in 1976.

While a student at Decatur High School, Belinda was a member of the National Honor Society, Vice President of the Student Council, class officer (secretary, vice president, and president), junior varsity and varsity cheerleader (freshman through senior years), co-editor of the yearbook, recipient of the DAR good citizen award, and held leading and supporting roles in school plays. She was devoted to God, her family, and education. This scholarship is provided to honor her life; a life lived with integrity, kindness, courage, and gentleness.

**Scholarship Description:** This endowed scholarship was established to: 1. Honor and celebrate the life of Belinda Phillips 2. Provide a non-renewable scholarship award to a Decatur High School senior who attends Western Michigan University (WMU) in the fall immediately following the senior year.

**Eligibility and Selection:** All Decatur High School seniors who plan to attend Western Michigan University and meet the Belinda S. Phillips Scholarship requirements are eligible to apply for the award. Each spring, a committee consisting of some combination of teachers, administrators, and the principal donor or her designated representative, will review all applications and select one recipient. The committee’s decision is final. In the case of a tie vote, the donor will make the final determination. In a year that no applicant meets the scholarship requirements, no award will be made.

**Scholarship Award:**  A minimum award of $1,000 to be credited to the recipient’s WMU student account; may be used for tuition, fees, room and board, or books.

**Scholarship Eligibility and Requirements:** Minimum High School GPA 3.2; Admission to Western Michigan University for the fall semester; Active in at least one extra curricular activity, community project or volunteer activity while in high school. Any field of study (major/minor) is acceptable.

**Application Form**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**1. Accepted at Western Michigan University for the upcoming fall semester? ­­­**

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_No**

**2. Please list any honors and awards you have received:**

**3. Please list your extra-curricula activities (grades 9-12):**

**4. Please list any community projects you have been involved with:**

**5. Please list any volunteer work and/or paid employment (grades 9-12):**

**6. Please Attach:**

**a. A separate page on which you have typed a brief statement (300-750 words) about the importance of a college education to you, to your family, and to your community.**

1. **Your high school transcript.**

**7. Affirmation**:

*I affirm that the information provided on this application is true. I understand that applying for this scholarship does not guarantee that I will be selected to receive the award and that the committee’s selection is final.*

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Student Signature Date

**Please give the completed application form, the brief written statement, and your transcript to the high school counselor no later than 3:00 P.M. on the first Friday in April. Applications without the requested attachments will not be considered.**

**Thank you!**