



Challenges Perseverance Character Hope

The Jim Hallihan Character Legacy Scholarship was created by his family in memory of a wonderful husband, father, brother, uncle, coach and friend. Jim believed that good character was even more important than grades, success in sports, or excelling in other talents. He believed in mentoring young people and often talked about the biblical principle of how challenges in life create perseverance which builds character and leads to hope.

The scholarship will provide applicants the opportunity to share some of those challenges and experiences where their character was tested, and they prevailed with good decisions and caring actions. We hope to provide opportunities for first generation college students and/or underrepresented populations on a college campus. Through stories and narratives, the focus will be on community service, volunteering, involvement in religious organizations and schools, and references of good character.

Eligibility

High school seniors, graduating in spring 2026. One recipient will be chosen from an Iowa high school to honor Jim's work with youth in Iowa, and another recipient will be chosen from a Decatur, Illinois high school to honor his hometown. Scholarships can be applied towards continuing education in community colleges, universities, and/or trade schools.

How to apply (online preferred)

Please apply online at <https://bit.ly/HallihanScholarship26>.

NOTE TIMELINE CHANGE. Applications open on **November 1, 2025**, and will be accepted through **January 5, 2026**, which would have been Hallihan's 81st birthday. Recipients will be notified by March 31, 2026. Scholarship award amount: \$1,500.

If you have any questions, please email HallihanScholarship@gmail.com. To learn more about Jim Hallihan, visit <https://www.amesmonument.com/obituary/594458/James-Hallihan>.

*Follow the below instructions only if you are **unable** to apply online.*

On a separate document, please provide the following information and email to HallihanScholarship@gmail.com.

Personal information

- Student name, email, phone, complete address; high school name, complete address and phone
- GPA
- Are you a first-generation college student? (Your grandparents and parents did not attend college).
- Are you part of an underrepresented population on college campuses? If yes, please provide more information.
- What are your plans for continuing your education after high school? (Be as specific as possible)
- How do you hope to pay for post high school education? (Financial aid based on income, scholarships, student loans, parents/guardian contribution, parents/guardians will cover all expenses beyond scholarships, etc)
- Please describe your extracurricular activities at school and years of involvement (clubs, sports, choir, drama, band, etc)
- Please describe your extracurricular activities done outside of school and years of involvement (jobs, volunteering, clubs, church and religious organizations, community service, etc)
- Please list any academic achievements or other recognition.

Your personal character narrative: You will be asked to describe a specific instance where your character was tested. We need to emphasize that we are looking for more than just a sports team was struggling and then worked hard and won. This is an opportunity to share specific experiences where your personal character was tested, and you prevailed with good decisions and caring actions. This will be the most important section of the application in regard to an applicant's eligibility. **If word limits are not followed, application will not be considered.**

- Part 1: Please describe a time when your character was tested. Lay out the details of the situation only. **Word limit: 250**
- Part 2: Now describe how your core values motivated your perseverance to overcome the challenge described above. Use the Character Count's Six Pillars of Character to help guide you. Those are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Overall, consider the principle of how challenges in life create perseverance which builds character and leads to hope. **Word limit: 250-500**

Two Letters of recommendations