

March 1, 2026

Dear Parents of Van Buren County Community School Seniors:

Congratulations to your graduating senior child and to you as parents. This year has been a big step for your child as they finish high school and make future career plans.

We are contacting you as representatives of The Van Buren Foundation Scholarship Committee. We are fortunate that some wonderful benefactors are making financial scholarships available to Van Buren County graduating seniors, via The Van Buren Foundation.

We are enclosing a scholarship application form. We are encouraging you as parents and students to fill out the form, and return it to us before the April 20th submission deadline. It must be received by April 20th.

You can return the application to Lisa Plowman, 16063 Gold Ave., Douds, IA, 52551 or leave with Mrs. Mary Thomas at the high school. We will leave extra copies at your school counselor's office.

Also, as a graduating senior, there is no limit to the number of scholarships you may apply for, if you meet the qualifications.

The scholarship winners will be announced at the May High School Award ceremony.

Sincerely yours, The Van Buren Foundation Scholarship Committee

Lisa Plowman, Douds

Jeanne Erickson, Keosauqua

Dillon Smith, Farmington

Denae Meek, Bonaparte

Julie Chapuis, Keosauqua

Matt Manning, Keosauqua

**The Van Buren Foundation, Inc. Scholarships
Van Buren County Community School District**

- Izaak Walton Scholarship
- Meribah Ruebel Scholarship
- Fred Perkins Scholarship—must be a male
- First Iowa State Bank—must be a female
- Laura Daughrity Scholarship
- E. Ruth Downard Vickerman and Robert S. Vickerman Scholarship
- Verna Olson Scholarship
- Hugh Hardin Scholarship
- Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship
- Robert Hornbaker Scholarship
- Colleen Duke/ Lisa Duke Denny Memorial Teacher Scholarship

Date: _____

General Information:

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address (if any): _____

Work experience/present employer: _____

Parent's Employment Father _____ Mother _____

High School Academic Information:

High School G.P.A. _____

Have you taken the Accuplacer, SAT or ACT examination, and if so, what was your highest score?

ACT- _____ SAT- _____ Accuplacer _____

What high school academic/extra-curricular honors or awards have you received?

What are your most significant extra curricular high school or community activities that you have been involved in?

What college prep classes have you taken while in high school?

College Information:

College or Vocational School you plan to attend this fall:

Have you been accepted as a student by the school? _____

Will you be a full time or part time student? _____

Have you chosen a major course of study and if so, what? _____

Financial Information:

What are your expected expenses for the next school year?

Tuition: _____ Room/Board: _____ Books/fees: _____

Personal expenses: _____ Total: _____

How do you intend to pay for the above college expenses: _____

To date, have you received confirmation of other scholarships that you have applied for, and if so, how much? _____

In the space provided below, please explain your financial need for the scholarship that you have applied for, listing any special circumstances that you might have:

**Please return to Lisa Plowman, 16063 Gold Ave, Douds, IA 52551 no later than April 20th.
Must be received by April 20th.**

Criteria for Scholarships

Fred Perkins (given to male), \$500.00, First Iowa State Bank (given to female): \$500.00

High Academic Achievement, should be above average,

High activity, should be very active in school, including but not limited to sports, drama, school clubs, but not necessarily all of the above,

Personality and character should be outstanding,

Financial need is not a factor.

Laura Daughrity Scholarship: 3 various scholarships, each \$500.00 or more

Must be an applicant at community college or 4-year college or university,

Indian Hill's applicants should apply for this scholarship via the Indian Hills Financial Aid Office,

Cannot be a direct descendent of Laura Daughrity.

Meribah Ruebel Scholarship: \$500.00 or more

One scholarship, student, college bound.

Based upon need of the recipient.

Izaak Walton Scholarship: \$500.00 or more

Recipient of this scholarship should indicate an intention to pursue a course of study leading to employment in the field of conservation consistent with the objectives of the Izaak Walton League.

Must be a resident of Van Buren County.

E. Ruth Downard Vickerman and Robert S. Vickerman Scholarship \$2,000.00

Recipient of this scholarship should indicate an intention to pursue a course of study leading to elementary/secondary education OR Nursing Field.

Verna J. Olson Scholarship: \$1,000.00

Current year graduate of the Van Buren County Community High School

Preference may be given to students attending an accredited academic institution over those students attending trade or business schools.

Hugh Hardin Scholarship—\$500.00

Current year graduate of the Van Buren County Community High School

***Applicant will need to submit an additional paragraph explaining why they have chosen to pursue the Law Enforcement Profession, Mechanics or Construction degree.**

***Payment will be made in the 2nd semester of the chosen college.**

Leaders of Tomorrow

A progressive scholarship awarded to a stand out individual, with close community ties. It is aimed at assisting the cultivation of individuals who may someday return to Van Buren County or surrounding areas and enrich the local community and economy.

The funds are awarded in the following manner:

1st Year \$250.00

2nd Year \$500.00

3rd Year \$750.00

4th Year \$1,000.00

For a total award amount of \$2,500.00 per individual.

Dillon F. Smith & Annalena Rippen-Smith, Farmington---Donors

Robert Hornbaker Scholarship—up to \$7500

Must be a current year graduate of Van Buren County Community High School. No preference for junior college, training at college or university. Not based on academic rank. Student will receive funds in the following manner;

\$1,000.00 1st year, \$1,500.00 2nd year, \$2,000.00 3rd year and \$2,500.00 4th year. No monies will be awarded the 3rd and 4th year if student attends a 2-year program.

Colleen Duke/ Lisa Duke Denny Memorial Teacher Scholarship-\$100—\$150

Must be a current year graduate of the Van Buren County Community School

District—College bound, majoring in Elementary Education/Special Elementary Education or Elementary Reading Major.

Must have maintained "B" average.

1st year--\$100.00,

Junior year in college and maintaining Elementary Education major, and with a "B" average, an additional \$150.00. Preference will be given to students indicating interest in pursuing their elementary teaching career in Southeast Iowa, rural school.

IRS RULING – No Direct Descendants of The Van Buren Foundation Board Members are eligible for any scholarships.