

**GEORGIA FIREFIGHTERS BURN FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**JOHN, LYNN, AND NICOLE BELLI MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND**  
**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES**

---

The John, Lynne and Nicole Belli Memorial Endowment Scholarship Fund is made possible by the generosity of the Belli family, who experienced the tragic loss of their son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter in a horrible automobile accident in Atlanta on January 26th, 2001. Lynne Belli and 15-month old, Nicole, died instantly as their vehicle burst into flames. John Belli, who was driving, held on for 11 days with burns over 75 percent of his body before succumbing to his injuries. John's parent's, Roy and Sara Belli, through their generosity and commitment to help burn survivors in need, have provided a one million dollar endowment to the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation (GFBF) to provide both educational and psychosocial assistance to individuals who have experienced a burn injury. Their benevolence provides hope, encouragement, and opportunity to burn survivors throughout Georgia. The GFBF recognizes the value of this generous gift to help fulfill our mission to partner with the fire service and burn care community to provide fire safety and prevention education, support medical facilities and assist burn survivors in their recovery.

---

**Please read this entire document before applying.**

**CONDITIONS:**

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

1. Applicant must have experienced a burn injury that can be documented by an authorized medical professional (i.e. Doctor, Charge Nurse, Medical Social Worker, etc.).
2. Applicant must be a legal Georgia resident for at least one year or been treated at either the Grady Burn Center in Atlanta, the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta, or the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at WellStar Cobb Hospital.
3. Applicant must be between the ages of 16 and 26 and must currently be a high school senior, have earned a GED or high school diploma, or currently be enrolled in a university, college, or vocational/ technical college.
4. Applicant must be accepted to an accredited university, college, or vocational/technical college.
5. Applicant must be working towards a degree/certificate at the accredited university, college, or vocational/technical college.
6. Applicant must be in good standing and/or school standards are satisfactorily met at the institution of enrollment for annual scholarship renewal.

**FUNDS:**

The John, Lynne and Nicole Belli Endowment Memorial Scholarship Fund provides assistance for students who are planning to attend or who are currently attending accredited universities, colleges, and vocational/technical colleges. Scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 are awarded based upon personal achievement and character.

1. Scholarships are renewable annually for a maximum amount of \$10,000 that must be used within 6 years of the award date as long as the recipient remains in good standing and/or school standards are satisfactorily met.
2. The decision of the Scholarship Committee, as approved by the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation's Board of Directors, is final.
3. Applicants not selected as scholarship recipients are encouraged to apply the following application period.

**DISBURSEMENT  
DETAILS AND  
USE OF FUNDS:**

Disbursements will be made directly to the recipient's qualified institution of higher learning and must be used by the end of the academic year in which the scholarship was awarded. Scholarship funds may be used exclusively for tuition at post-secondary educational institutions that normally maintain a regular faculty and curriculum, as described by the Internal Revenue Code 170. Scholarship funds may be used for the payment for either (i) tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance at an eligible educational institution, (ii) fees, books, supplies or equipment required for courses of instruction and/or for room and board expense payable to the institution. For this purpose an eligible educational institution is a school offering higher education beyond high school. It is any college, university, vocational school, or other post-secondary educational institution eligible to participate in a student aid program run by the U.S. Department of Education.

1. The payment is a "**Qualified Scholarship**"

The "Qualified Scholarship" Requirement: An amount will be treated as a "qualified scholarship" if it is a payment for either (i) tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance at the educational institution, or (ii) fees, books, supplies or equipment required for courses of instruction. Note that the fees, books, and other non-tuition items must be "required" for either enrollment or a course of instruction. Voluntary fees and "suggested" books and supplies do not qualify.

2. The recipient is a "**Candidate for a Degree**"

The "Candidate for a Degree" Requirement: The definition of a "candidate for a degree" is broader than one might initially expect. It includes, of course, those individuals who are actually enrolled in a degree-seeking program, but also covers enrolled students who are not actually seeking a degree, as long as the educational institution that the person attends offers degrees and is properly accredited.

3. The award is for the purpose of conducting study or research at an "**Educational Organization**"

The "Educational Organization" Requirement: The "educational organization" test is easily met in most instances because it simply requires that the institution have a faculty, a curriculum, and a regularly enrolled body of students.

**APPLICATION  
REQUIREMENTS  
AND  
MATERIALS:**

**For ALL applicants:**

1. At least two letters of recommendation that support the applicant's scholarship, work ethic, character, work/volunteer experience, citizenship, leadership, etc. (Recommendation letters may be from school staff, counselors, administrators, teachers/professors, employers or community members. Letters may not be from family members. Recommendation letters must be received directly from the individual submitting the recommendation.)
2. Verification of burn injury. Applicant can provide a letter from an authorized medical professional (i.e. Doctor, Charge Nurse, Medical Social Worker, etc.) on letterhead verifying the burn injury or use the "Verification of Burn Injury" form at the end of the application. Please do not submit complete medical record.
3. One essay addressing each of the questions listed below.
  - How has your burn injury influenced and impacted your life and who you are today?
  - How will you benefit from your university, college, or vocational/technical college education and how will it contribute to your life after graduation?
  - Why do you think you are a deserving scholarship recipient?

Essay should not exceed two typed double spaced pages (one inch margins) with a 12-point Times New Roman or Courier font.

**For current High School students:**

1. An official high school transcript (to include credits and GPA) sent directly from the institution; or an official copy of GED, if applicable.
2. A copy of the acceptance letter/enrollment verification sent to the applicant by the university, college, or vocational/technical college he or she plans to attend.
3. A copy of a current invoice/billing statement from the applicant's university, college, or vocational/technical college.

**For current University, College, or Vocational/Technical College students:**

1. An official transcript (to include credits and GPA) from the institution at which the student is currently enrolled, sent directly by the institution.
2. A copy of a current invoice/billing statement from the applicant's university, college, or vocational/technical college.

**For applicants currently not attending High School or University, College, or Vocational/Technical College:**

1. An official high school transcript (to include credits and GPA) sent directly from the institution; or an official copy of GED, if applicable.
2. An official transcript (to include credits and GPA) from any university, college, or vocational/technical college the applicant has previously attended, sent directly by the institution, if applicable.
3. A copy of the acceptance letter/enrollment verification sent to the applicant by the university, college, or vocational/ technical college he or she plans to attend.
4. A copy of a current invoice/billing statement from the applicant's university, college, or vocational/technical college.

**DEADLINE:**

**March 22, 2019 (spring application) or September 20, 2019 (fall application)**

Applications must be submitted online by 11:59pm on the respective deadlines for consideration. Applications received after the deadline will be considered the following application period.

**PLEASE NOTE: All supplemental application materials the applicant is responsible for (e.g. essay, invoice/billing statement, acceptance letter/enrollment verification, verification of burn injury, and release and agreement signature form) must be submitted at the same time.**

**Options include:**

1. **Uploaded at the end of the online application. Only PDF, Word, Excel, or JPEG files will be accepted. Maximum file size is 128MB. If online, materials must be submitted by 11:59pm on March 22 (spring application) or September 20 (fall application).**
2. **Mailed to the GFBF office. If mailed to the GFBF office, materials must be postmarked on or before on March 22 (spring application) or September 20 (fall application).**

All other supplemental application materials (e.g. transcripts and letters of recommendation) should be mailed to the GFBF office and postmarked on or before on March 22 (spring application) or September 20 (fall application) directly from the institution or individual.

**NOTIFICATION:**

Notification letters will go out on or before April 26, 2019 (spring application) and October 25, 2019 (fall application). Scholarship recipients will be recognized on the GFBF website.

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation  
Attention: Belli Scholarship  
2575 Chantilly Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30324

**QUESTIONS:**

Please contact the GFBF office at (404) 320-6223