

# Belong! Scholarship Fund 2022

## Description:

The Belong! Scholarship Fund has been established to help economically disadvantaged students imagine a future that includes further education after high school. These scholarships offer up to \$5,000 per student for one year of post-secondary tuition assistance towards an **Associate Degree at Northern Virginia Community College (“NVCC”) or a Certificate Program as part of a trade or technical school (including Adult and Community Education Certificate Programs)**. These scholarships are renewable, and only available for students that have just graduated or graduated within the past 3 years from James Madison High School (“JMHS”) provided they meet the eligibility requirements listed below.

## Amount:

Up to \$2,500 per semester (up to \$5,000 per school year). Note that the amount awarded will depend on whether the student is enrolled on a part-time or full-time basis. If the cost of a certificate program is less than \$5,000, a portion of the scholarship can be used to pay incidentals and transportation as needed.

The scholarships will be awarded each year. Successful completion of the awarded scholarship year will allow students to apply for a second year scholarship the following academic year. Please note: A previous award does not automatically guarantee a second year award.

## First Time Applicant’s Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ Maintained a GPA of at least a 2.5 while at JMHS.
- ✓ Current Senior or former student of JMHS (Graduated within the past 3 years from JMHS).
- ✓ Plan to enroll part time or full-time at NVCC or an accredited trade or technical school for the 2022-2023 academic year.
- ✓ Is not in default, or does not owe a refund, under any federal or state loan or grant program.
- ✓ Agrees to meet with a Belong! Scholarship advisor at least twice per semester and attend tutoring sessions if struggling.
- ✓ Provide one letter of recommendation from a school teacher or counselor. Please have your teacher or counselor email the letter directly to [scholarships@belongvienna.org](mailto:scholarships@belongvienna.org).
- ✓ Provide Belong! unofficial copies of JMHS transcript within fourteen (14) days of notification from Belong!
- ✓ Demonstrated financial need through submission of a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or
- ✓ ***IF*** ineligible to complete the FAFSA, you must submit EFC Calculator Results: Go to [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org) and under “Pay for College”, click on “Tools and Calculators”, then click the “EFC Calculator” link. Use the “Federal Methodology” (FM) EFC Formula when prompted. Print the EFC “Results” page.

**Second Year Applicant's Eligibility Requirements:**

- ✓ Meet all initial and continuing eligibility requirements as stated previously.
- ✓ Maintain at least a 2.5 GPA per semester (please provide a copy of grades to Belong!).
- ✓ Maintain part-time or full-time enrollment at NVCC or an accredited trade or technical school
- ✓ Register only for courses that satisfy the degree or program completion course requirements.

**Additional Information:** If Belong! determines that a student is not eligible to receive the scholarship after they have been notified of the initial scholarship award, then Belong! shall notify the student of its determination in writing.

## Belong Scholarship Application

**Applicant Information:**

**Name:**   
*First Name                      Middle Name                      Last Name*

**Address:**   
*Street                                      City                                      Zip Code*

**Cell Phone Number:**       **Email Address:**

**Select One:**    JMHS Student     JMHS Former Student and Graduation Year   
 Second Year Applicant, attending

**Please provide the following information from the person writing your recommendation:**

*First and Last Name*

*Email address*

*Relationship to applicant (i.e. teacher or counselor)*

*If you need more space to answer the questions below, answer on a separate paper and attach to application. Please make sure all documents have your name on them.*

**Current Plan:** What do you plan on studying, what type of school do you plan on attending, what time frame do you plan on graduating, and what degree do you plan on ultimately obtaining?

**Please explain your motivation for pursuing this area of study and how you think attending NVCC, or a trade or technical school will help you achieve your academic goals.**

**Future Career Goal:** What are your future career goals or aspirations? Please explain what you hope to achieve professionally with the path you have chosen to follow. How do you see yourself using your degree?

**List your top 5 activities outside of school (jobs, sports, volunteering, clubs, etc.) and include any experience, skills, or accomplishments in leadership roles you gained through your involvement in these activities.**

**Essay:** Tell the Belong! Scholarship Committee about yourself (for example, you can highlight your achievements, personality traits/unique talents, hobbies, skills, personal experiences) and why you should be selected to receive this scholarship (for example, how your background has shaped you, obstacles you have overcome, relevant personal successes and achievements, etc.).

*\* Essay should be double spaced and no more than 750 words. We encourage students to have someone review their essay prior to submission to make sure the essay is clear and concise.*

**Application Requirements:**

- Complete Application
- Essay
- Copy of Submitted FAFSA/Student Aid Report (SAR) or EFC Calculator Report
- Official or Unofficial School Transcript
- Letter of Recommendation from Teacher or Counselor

**Completed Application Deadline (including recommendation letter): April 1, 2022**

**Application and all supporting documents should be emailed to [scholarships@belongvienna.org](mailto:scholarships@belongvienna.org) or put in Ms. Otto's mailbox in the main office.**

**For Applicant**

- ✓ I have reviewed the requirements for The Belong! Scholarships and I agree to follow the criteria of this scholarship program.
- ✓ Should I be a recipient of a Belong! Scholarship, I give permission for Belong! to publish pictures and information about me for Belong!'s media or promotional purposes.

**Student Signature:**

**Date:**

**Please Print Name:**

**Parent/Guardian Signature:**

**Date:**

**Please Print Name:**