



The Geisler Penquite Foundation has committed to paying \$100,000 per year, alternating between the Geisler Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Penquite Endowed Scholarship Fund, contributing a total of \$5 million for scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded to sophomore elementary, secondary and/or k-12 education students who have been accepted into the teacher preparation program. When completely funded, the gift will support 48-50 renewable scholarships of \$5,000 for 12 new students in the elementary and secondary education programs who exemplify the principles and values of Central College.

The second part of the gift is an endowment of the Geisler Penquite Educational Excellence Fund. The endowment will be used to enhance educational opportunities in teacher preparation and performance in a program housed by the education department. Participants will engage in training and dialogue about traditional and contemporary education issues. Loren and Cecil Geisler Penquite didn't attend Central College, and much like Harold Geisler, grew up in Jasper County during the Great Depression. Despite hard times, the two families prospered through hard work and good management. Both families were committed to learning, books, young people and higher education and seized the chance to pass that on to future generations.

Application Eligibility

Elementary, secondary and k-12 education majors are eligible and encouraged to apply for the Geisler Penquite Foundation Scholarship. Applications will be reviewed by a representative team including Education Department faculty, Geisler Penquite Foundation committee members, current or past scholarship recipients, current teacher

education students, and other constituents as deemed appropriate. Applicants for the 2014 Geisler Penquite Foundation Scholarship must meet all of the following requirements:

- Hold an overall cumulative college GPA of 3.4
- Be a student at sophomore standing who has been admitted to the teacher education program (Due to the nature of the scholarship, only sophomore level students may apply.)
- Demonstrate a strong commitment for the teaching profession
- Demonstrate potential to be an active leader in the Geisler Penquite Excellence in Education Program. This might include, but is not required or limited to:
 - Volunteer participation in the classroom beyond required field experiences
 - Membership of professional organizations for students
 - Additional research or involvement in pre-professional activities
 - Tutoring or mentoring experiences
 - Education club membership and participation
 - CTA involvement
- Demonstrate progress in meeting the required InTASC Standards, benchmarks and dispositions of the Central College Teacher Preparation Program.

Scholarship Recipient Selection Criteria

Candidates will be selected based on the following criteria.

- This scholarship is not based on financial need or candidate's reception of other scholarships, awards, or grants; however an applicant may refer to potential need in his/her application.
- Proven academic success based on college GPA, personal qualifications, and recommendation letters
- Potential for continued academic success based on GPA and recommendation letters
- Demonstration of strong commitment to the teaching profession through personal qualifications, recommendation letters and application information
- Demonstration of progress in meeting the requirements of the teacher education program through personal qualifications, GPA, approval to program and committee collaboration with education faculty
- Proven citizenship qualities through personal qualifications, letters of recommendation, and committee collaboration with education faculty
- Proven and potential leadership qualities through personal qualifications, letters of recommendation, pre-professional activities, and committee collaboration with education faculty

Application Process

1. Submit **completed application**, including the following components, by March 25th to the office manager of the education department. Application and supporting materials should be submitted electronically to mconvillec@central.edu.
 - **Personal essay** explaining why you feel you are the best candidate for the scholarship. Include statements addressing your strong commitment to teaching, leadership qualities, civic responsibility, academic success, and progression in teacher education program requirements.
 - **Personal Resume** detailing your experience and qualifications thus far in your desire to become a teacher. This should detail any work, internship or other experience you have that leads to your goal of becoming an educator. Include your contact information, GPA, and any other qualifications you feel relevant.
 - **Two letters of recommendation from adults/faculty** addressing why you would be a great recipient for the scholarship. (Please note: Members of the education department cannot complete a letter of recommendation for you.)
2. Top candidates will be contacted for a follow-up interview by members of the Geisler Penquite Committee and/or others in the community with a vested interest in the selection process.
3. Finalists should be prepared to speak to their viability as a candidate in a personal interview with the scholarship committee. Protocol for this interview will include:
 - a. A common set of questions asked of each candidate
 - b. Assessment by interview team as to professionalism, qualifications to become a leader in education, and ability of applicant to convey viability for receipt of scholarship based on selection criteria
 - c. Members of the interview committee will present a recommendation for the final recipient to the Geisler Penquite committee and members of the Central College Education Department for final selection.
4. Finalists will be notified of the selected scholarship recipient(s) within one week of final interviews. Scholarship recipient(s) will be announced to the general public in April.
5. This is a renewable scholarship, spanning two full academic years. Geisler Penquite Scholarship recipients will be involved in ongoing, varying aspects of the Geisler Penquite Foundation and Educational Excellence Fund programming. In an effort to ensure sustainability and credibility of the program, scholarship recipients will be held to

the highest academic, civic, and ethical standards. Issues that jeopardize the credibility or sustainability of the program and the scholarship recipient will be addressed on an individual and unique basis, with proper sanctions implemented to include, but not be limited to: personal discussions, probationary review, and removal of scholarship funding.

Geisler and Penquite Scholarships in Educational Excellence Application

1. Incomplete applications will not be processed. Attach additional pages if necessary.
2. Submit completed application online to the office manager of the education department (mconvillec@central.edu) by March 25th.
3. Scholarship selections based on above mentioned criteria only.

Submit the following in .pdf format:

1. A personal resumé (.pdf format): List volunteerism, research, activities, scholarship receipt, or pre-professional involvement that demonstrates leadership, civic engagement, academic success, and/or advocacy for teaching. Your resumé should also include the following information:

- **Name:**
- **Central College Email:**
- **Campus Mail Box #:**
- **Cell Number:**
- **Home town/state:**
- **Cumulative GPA:**
- **Anticipated year of graduation:**
- **Elementary Education, Secondary Education, or K-12 licensure sought**
- **Endorsement Areas:**
- **Major (if Secondary Education)**
- **Volunteerism, research, activities, scholarship receipt, or pre-professional involvement that demonstrates leadership, civic engagement, academic success, and/or advocacy for teaching**

2. A personal essay (.pdf format) explaining why you feel you are the best candidate for the scholarship. Include statements addressing your strong commitment to teaching, leadership qualities, civic responsibility, academic success, and progression in teacher education program requirements.

3. Two letters of recommendations from adults/faculty (.pdf format) describing why you would be the best candidate for this reward. Recommendations cannot be from members of the education department.

Please direct any questions about the GP Foundation Scholarship(s) to Dr. Jennifer Diers, diersj@central.edu or 641-628-5443.