

## 2026 MERLE KIRKLEY MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

### Overview

The \$3,000 Merle Kirkley Merit Scholarship Award is a competitive merit-based scholarship program designed to provide financial support for Washington State high school students planning to obtain a post-secondary education.

### Qualifications:

- The candidate shall be a graduating high school student in the state of Washington.
- The candidate shall display engagement with and/or service to those around them in school, community, family and/or employment.
- The candidate must be accepted into a post-secondary educational program following their graduation, (i.e.: university, technical school, community college, etc.), and pursuing a field of study that aligns with A4LE's mission, vision, and core values. Eligible areas of study include Architecture, Engineering (Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Structural, etc.), and other disciplines within the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) industry. Related fields may also qualify, such as Interior Design, Industrial Design, Construction Management, Computer-Aided Design/Drafting, and education degrees when they relate to building design, construction, or associated career paths.
- The candidate will submit a personal and creative essay, video on the required **Essay Subject:**  
*Just as a building requires a team to envision, design, construct, furnish and operate, so does a community need active participants to make it thrive. Actively participating in a high school community is a mixture of common interests and the structure the building offers to express those values. In 1,000 words or less, please describe how your high school has contributed to your sense of community and how you engage with it. Also, please describe the changes that you would propose to the design or furnishings of your high school that you feel once implemented, would improve the quality of education and sense of community.*

All student scholarships will be sent directly to the financial aid or administration office of the higher education institution on behalf of the student. NO checks or funding will be sent directly to any student or individual. Please be sure to use your personal email (not student email in District) in the application so that we can ensure that the notification reaches you.

### Submit your application:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53P5HBQ>

**Applications close on June 5, 2026, and applicants will be notified by June 18, 2026.** The A4LE International CFO shall forward the scholarship amount directly to the successful candidate's institution to apply toward their post-secondary education.