
Program Overview

The Sapphire Fund, in collaboration with the Independence Business Alliance (IBA), are proud to announce their first annual Business Scholarship Award. Sapphire Fund, in continuing its long standing history of championing the multifaceted needs of Philadelphia area LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS organizations, has partnered with the IBA to create a scholarship to benefit a local, undergraduate student currently enrolled in a business related discipline within the Philadelphia region.

The Sapphire Fund was established in 2002 to support the efforts of organizations contributing to the health and well-being of Philadelphia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer or questioning (LGBTQ) community and those who support them. Sapphire supplies resources to local organizations providing HIV/AIDS research, education, prevention and treatment as well as promoting the overall health and well-being of the community through education, events, and advocacy.

The Independence Business Alliance (IBA) is the LGBT Chamber of Commerce for the Greater Philadelphia region. The IBA is a membership-based business advocacy organization, dedicated to making the Philadelphia region an influential and diverse LGBT business community with an impact on economic development, equal rights and policy issues. The IBA's mission is to enhance financial opportunities, foster diversity, develop leadership and collaboration and advocate for positive change. In addition, the IBA is an official affiliate of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC).

Applications will be reviewed and selected by a small committee of Sapphire Fund and IBA Board members, as well as representatives of the IBA member business community. Both Sapphire Fund and the Independence Business Alliance view this collaboration as a tremendous opportunity to work together, enabling a community minded and business focused student to take one step closer to their goals. For more information on either organization, visit www.sapphirefund.org and www.independencebusinessalliance.com

On behalf of both organizations, we wish you the best of luck in the application process!

If you have any questions please contact Independence Business Alliance at (215) 557-0190.

Scholarship Program Specifications

1. Scholarship Amount: This will be a \$1,000.00 scholarship, awarded for educational expenses to include tuition, books & supplies, and/or room & board. Where possible, the awarded funds will be payable directly to the school on the student's behalf. The scholarship will be awarded annually. Previous award recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship again, provided a complete application is submitted for the new award year.
2. Dates to Remember:
 - i. Application Deadline: **June 25, 2010 by 5:00 pm**
 - ii. Announcement/Presentation: **September 2010**
- a) Award Criteria/Guidelines:
 - i. Award criteria are based on a review of the applicant's academic credentials and business concentration, letters of recommendation, their answers to the application questions, community service involvement, leadership roles, financial need and future career goals; and when applicable, an individual interview.
- b) Applicants must send:
 - i. A completed application form.
 - ii. Two (2) letters of recommendation from professional, academic, and/or extracurricular sources. Whenever possible, primary letters of recommendation should be obtained from an instructor in the applicant's respective area of study to better illustrate their aptitude and commitment to education.
 - iii. Personal narratives to the questions stated below. Take this opportunity to tell us who you are.
- c) All applications must be complete for consideration. Any application packet that is incomplete or not completed as required will be disqualified from consideration.
- d) Eligible Recipient: To be eligible for receiving this award, an applicant must be (1) a self-identified LGBTQ student, OR an allied student supportive of the LGBTQ community; (2) who is currently enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university in Philadelphia; (3) is working toward an undergraduate degree in a business program/major and demonstrates leadership roles. For purposes of this award, a business program includes but may not be limited to: Business Management, Finance, Leadership, Organizational Development, Organizational Dynamics, Entrepreneurship, Economics, and/or Accounting, plus any combination of major/minor encompassing these subject areas.
- e) Community Service: Applicants involved in LGBTQ organizations and/or seeking to improve the Philadelphia region through community service are especially encouraged to apply and significant consideration will be given to such service.

**Sapphire Fund / Independence Business Alliance
Scholarship Program**

2010
Presented
by MERCK

Scholarship Application

(If your handwriting is illegible, please type answers into this form.)

Last Name		First		M.I.	Date
Home Address				Apt/Unit #	
City			State		Zip
Phone			E-mail Address		
Cell			College/University		
Program/Major			GPA		
Anticipated Graduation Date					
School Address (if different from above)					
Can you be reached at either of these numbers regarding your application? If not, we will contact you via email.					
				YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you identify as LGBTQ?					
				YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
How are you paying for your college education? (i.e., loans, parents, self-funding through work, or combination of the above)					
If combination, please describe an approximate percentage. For instance: 50% self-funded through work/50% parents:					

Application Questions

Please use a separate page to answer the following questions. Answers should be submitted using 12pt font and double-spaced.

1. What was/is your motivation to pursue your degree? Why did you select a business major and how do you plan to utilize your degree?
2. Why did you decide to attend a school in the City of Philadelphia?
3. More than ever, the continued development and growth of the LGBTQ business community is critical. If selected, what contributions do you see yourself making to this effort?
4. Do you consider yourself a leader or someone that can handle a position of responsibility? Why?
5. Do you see yourself remaining in the Philadelphia region after graduation to work in your field? If so, in what capacity?
6. Please describe your community service, highlighting any involvement with LGBTQ organizations.

Disclaimer and Signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

If this application leads to an awarding of scholarship, I understand that false or misleading information in my application or interview may result in my disqualification.

Signature

Date

Please submit the completed scholarship application packet to:

Independence Business Alliance
Attn: Sapphire Fund/IBA Scholarship Program
1717 Arch Street, Suite 3370
Philadelphia, PA 19103