



**NWILED John D. Cooke, III Memorial Entrepreneurial Scholarship**

**2022 Application**

**“Press on to excellence”**

NW Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) offers three scholarships to graduating high school seniors from Carroll or Jo Daviess Counties who are entrepreneurial and want to start a business or pursue a career in business. There is one (1) \$2,000 first place award and two (2) \$1,500 runners up awards. Recipients shall be full-time students in good academic standing in the qualifying school year (2021 - 2022). This is not a need-based scholarship. Completed scholarship applications should be sent to David Schmit, Program Coordinator: [DSchmit@nwiled.org](mailto:DSchmit@nwiled.org) or 1 Commercial Drive, Ste. 2. Hanover, IL 61041 by Friday, March 18, 2022. Scholarships can be used for start-up costs related to launching a business and or advancing a career in business through education and training.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**Apply with typed responses. Exhibits are welcomed, please attach supporting photos and illustrations. A selection committee comprised of NWILED Board members, local business leaders, and a representative from the Cooke Family will score applications and award the scholarships.**

1. Do you have an entrepreneurial idea that this scholarship will help you pursue?
2. After graduation do you plan to take classes to assist you with your entrepreneurial goals, or do you plan to launch your idea or start your career?
3. Do you have work experience?
4. Are you involved in extracurricular activities?
5. Have you volunteered in your community? If so, for which organization(s) and why?
6. Do you plan to remain in, or how will you stay connected to, the Northwest Illinois community?
7. In your own words, briefly tell what being a successful business owner or having a successful career in business would mean to you?



8. What is your favorite local small business, and briefly explain why you think they are successful.

9. If awarded this scholarship, how will you use it? If you have a business idea, describe what tools or resources will you spend the money on? If you do not yet have a business idea or plan to start a career in business, tell how the scholarship will fund your aspirations. (300 words maximum).

10. Read the John D. Cooke III biography (attached), and then tell what about him inspires you most?