



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For questions contact: NWILED @ 815-281-0206

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NWILED announces 2023 entrepreneurial scholarship

HANOVER – Since 2018 Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) has offered an entrepreneurial scholarship. On December 8, 2021, the NWILED Board of Directors unanimously voted to rename the annual scholarship in honor and remembrance of the late John D Cooke III who was a founding member of the organization. We are pleased to announce that the application window for the **NWILED John D. Cooke, III Memorial Entrepreneurial Scholarship** for 2023 is now open. All high school seniors in Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties are eligible to apply.

NWILED will offer three scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are entrepreneurial and want to start a business or pursue a career in business. There is one \$2,000 first place award and two \$1,500 runners up awards. Recipients shall be full-time students in good academic standing in the qualifying school year (2022 - 2023).

Students may download the 2023 application from the NWILED website. Completed applications should be sent to David Schmit, Regional Director: DSchmit@nwiled.org or 1 Commercial Dr, Ste. 2, Hanover, IL 61041 by **Friday, March 17, 2023**. Scholarships can be used for start-up costs related to launching a business and or advancing a career in business through education and or training.

Past winners have included students connected to Three Sisters Sweet Shoppe in Elizabeth, and Davis Lumber Company in Scales Mound, in addition to a student from Savanna that proposed a sign language business, and a student from the Galena Territory who is developing a hand-crafted artisan doll line. The 2022 winner helps operate Hoof It Goat Treks in Galena with her family, an adventure-based agritourists business.

For more information about NWILED visit nwiled.org.