

Richard A. Castro Community Service Scholarship Application

The Richard Castro Community Service Scholarship was initiated by CommUNITY en Acción (CEA), a non-partisan, non-profit organization of Hispanic business leaders, founded by Richard Castro, a highly successful and well-known businessman who lives in El Paso, Texas. Mr. Castro has earned an admirable record of philanthropy and community service and has devoted much of his life and significant resources to creating opportunities for students to succeed, particularly those challenged by barriers to education.

The Richard A. Castro Community Service Scholarship is designed to reward eligible high school seniors who make significant community service contributions to their community through their volunteer work. Students who participate in community service activities related to their future career goals are, in reality, jumping ahead of the competition and furthering their college-planning process by gaining real-world experience and giving back. Studies show that volunteering enhances a student's skill-set and helps prepare them for work experience. When students perform community service, they are often exposed to a variety of new experiences by the people, the environment and the duties they perform. Exposure to new people and different situations can help shape the direction of a young person's life and the way they view the world while instilling a sense of purpose and direction, as well.

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Scholarship Eligibility

To be eligible for the Richard A. Castro Community Service Scholarship, a student must:

- Have been enrolled the final two years of his/her education at one of the following school districts: Fabens ISD, Tornillo ISD, San Elizario ISD or Anthony ISD; and
- Must have a proven, strong commitment to community service and volunteerism (must show proof of service with a letter from the agency(ies) served, stating the work performed and number of hours served. To be eligible, candidates would have to perform and verify in writing the hours of community service or volunteer hours during their four years in high school; and
- Meet all graduation requirements by June of their graduation year, as specified by the school district attended: Fabens, Tornillo, San Elizario or Anthony School District, and as set forth by the State of Texas (e.g., credits, EOC, state tests, etc.); and
- Have been accepted for enrollment to the University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso Community College or any accredited institution of learning or trade school within El Paso County; and
- Must be enrolled full-time in such institution of learning or trade school and show proof of enrollment.

Additional Requirements

- Approved one-time scholarships will be awarded a maximum of \$1,000 per student.
- Scholarships will be payable to the college, university or trade school after proof of registration is provided.
- Scholarships cannot be deferred.

Required Submissions

- Complete and upload or deliver application packet; and
- Upload letters/forms proving community service performed and hours served; and
- Upload two letters of recommendation, dated and signed: Each should be a one-page letter of recommendation from a person in authority, such as high school administrator, faculty, staff, community member, employer or civic leader who is familiar with your abilities, work habits, integrity and potential (letters may not be from family or household members); and
- Upload unofficial high school transcript as of January of the current school year.

Richard A. Castro Community Service Scholarship Application
Completed application MUST be submitted by 5 p.m.
on April 30th of the Current School Year

By email to: richardcastroscholarship@pdnfoundation.org
or

A hard copy may be mailed or hand-delivered to:

**The Richard Castro Community Service Scholarship
c/o Mica Short
Paso del Norte Community Foundation
221 N. Kansas Ste. 1900
El Paso, Texas 79901**

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

For more information, contact
Mica Short at (915) 218-2641, mshort@pdnfoundation.org

APPLICANT INFORMATION (Must be typed):

Name: _____

Home Address: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Current High School and Classification: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Class Rank: _____ Grade Point Average: _____

Elementary & Middle Schools Attended: _____

I have been accepted at the following colleges/universities/trade schools: _____

Application # _____

I plan to attend: _____ I plan to study: _____

BACKGROUND

Father's/Guardian's Name _____ Occupation _____

Mother's/Guardian's Name _____ Occupation _____

Are you the first person in your family to go to college? _____ Yes _____ No

List amount of scholarships awarded to date and the amount of each:

Did you apply for FAFSA? Yes _____ No _____
(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Anticipated tuition and related expenses for 2019-20 school year: \$ _____

With my signature below, permission is hereby granted to school officials to release my school records, if necessary, for review by CommUNITY En Acción (CEA) and/or Paso Del Norte Community Foundation, and I hereby grant permission to publish information about me, such as biographical information, photographs and video. With my signature below, I certify that: (1) All of my responses herein are true and correct; (2) I meet all graduation requirements or will meet all graduation requirements by the graduation date of the current school year, as specified by the State of Texas and my school district's policies; (3) I will graduate from _____ High School by June 2020; and (4) I have been accepted for enrollment, or will be enrolled at the University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso Community College or another accredited institution of learning or trade school within EL Paso County.

Student's printed name, signature _____

Parent/Guardian's printed name, signature _____

Counselor/Advisor printed name, signature _____

List all community service or volunteer work you have done during your high school years. Explain how you changed after the experience(s): 0 – 40 points.

List all extracurricular activities: 0 - 5 points

List other significant accomplishments in high school: 0-5 points

Provide 2 letters of recommendation (**Maximum total of 10 points**): 0-10 points

Choose only **two** of the following three essay topics to write about separately (**Maximum total of 40 points**). Limit your essays to one page each, double-spaced with 12-point font and one-inch margins; a minimum of 250 words is required for each essay:

Essay 1: How have you been inspired to give back to your community? 0-20 points

Essay 2: After graduation, how do you plan to continue giving back to your community? Why is this important? 0-20 points

Essay 3: Tell us about someone who has made a significant impact in your life and explain why. 0-20 points