

2020 REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: John Paluch
Members: Ernie Brauchli, Fred Glure, Rob Streit

In spite of the Corona Virus Pandemic, the SBS Education Committee was able to evaluate scholarship applications and award scholarships in all three scholarship programs. The Concordia Language Villages cancelled all in-person camping sessions, but quickly brought online a full offering of Virtual Language Village programming which allowed students to participate in semi-intensive immersion experiences from at home. We once again awarded Merit Scholarships to Chicago Public School graduating seniors and Undergraduate Scholarships to students of Swiss ancestry, knowing that tuition payments would still need to be made even if colleges and universities were using only remote learning models. With the difficult circumstances caused by the shutdowns, our administrator, Ursula Furrer facilitated a move to online applications as the problems of mail delivery became evident. The Pandemic provided the motivation for us to move all of our application, notification and payment processes online. This is a transition year, but we believe that by 2022/2023, all three scholarship programs will be entirely online. The members of the Education Committee are very pleased that the SBS can continue to support so many different students from Chicago and Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana. The SBS awarded **\$35,275** in scholarship money to grade school, high school and college students during the 2020-2021 academic year.

OUR THREE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Merit Scholarships

Merit Scholarships support highly qualified, low-income students in Chicago Public Schools with plans to study at a four-year college. We are continuing to work with Lane Tech College Prep, Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy and George Westinghouse College Prep and all three schools were able to provide us applications. This year there were very strong applications from all three schools and the committee awarded one scholarship each to students at Lane and Westinghouse and two scholarships to students from Brooks, resulting in a total of **\$8,000**.

Language Immersion Scholarships for Concordia Language Villages

The application numbers were significantly lower this year, with parents realizing that there was a low likelihood that the Concordia Language Village programming would take place. There was a total of eleven applications, four German, six French and one Italian. All students were offered the opportunity to participate in a Virtual Language Village Course and seven students indicated that they wished to enroll. In the end there were six students who received tuition reimbursements of \$325. In comparison, there were 53 applications in 2019/2020 and 36 applications in 2018/2019. The total awarded amount was **\$2,275**. (Paid \$1950)

Both the Northern Illinois AATG and the Chicago Area AATF were contacted in early April and it was decided that we would make no scholarship offers to high scorers in their testing programs.

Undergraduate College Support Scholarships

The Undergraduate College Support Scholarships provide support to students of Swiss heritage. There were 30 applicants and winners this year: twelve in Category I (Seniors in High School), nine in Category II (Freshmen in College), and nine in Category III (Sophomores or Juniors in College). The total amount of scholarships awarded was **\$25,000**.

All 2020-2021 winners are listed here and on the SBS web page at:

<http://www.sbschicago.org>. Applications for the 2021-22 year scholarships are available on our webpage directly or through e-mail or regular mail.

Respectfully submitted,
March 7, 2021

John Paluch
Chair, Education Committee