# The Wirks Family Scholarship

*Supported by Eric Wirks & Family*

## About



Eric Wirks was born and raised in East Palestine, Ohio, and attended East Palestine Schools his entire academic career. Eric is the son of Thomas and Jeannine Wirks, and brother to the late Julie Lynn (Wirks) Masony, the co-valedictorian of the East Palestine High School Class of 1991.

Eric is a 2000 graduate of East Palestine High School. He attended Kent State University following graduation and moved to Atlanta, Georgia in 2004. Led by the ideal of pursuing better academic and career opportunities, despite being only 21 years old at the time, he was no stranger to hard work and the sacrifices it required. Forged by the great example set by his parents, the foundation was laid for him to accomplish his dreams regardless of the circumstances.

As expected, things were not easy for Eric. The fear and unknown of moving from a small town to a big city led to many setbacks and disappointments. However, through the leadership, mentorship, and guidance of several successful individuals he continued to persevere towards his goals. Guided by the constant pursuit of knowledge and self-betterment, he was empowered to acquire the leadership, technological, and financial literacy skills he needed to succeed. Now, after developing these skill sets among others, he has become a success story and wants to give back to the school and community that played such a positive role in his journey.

Today, Eric owns and is the equity share holder in several companies in the transportation, technology, and financial sectors. He is also an active board member in a local nonprofit that focuses on community outreach. His companies employ, contract, and provide careers to well over 100 individuals annually. It has always been one of his dreams to give back in ways that empower individuals, their communities, and surroundings. From these sincere attitudes and beliefs, Eric Wirks and his family have founded The Wirks Family Scholarship.

## Eligibility

- Applicants must be an East Palestine High School graduating senior
- Applicants must have a minimum unweighted cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above
- Applicants must indicate a financial need
- Applicants must have been enrolled at East Palestine High School full-time during their junior and senior year
- Applicants must have demonstrated sincere interest in, and commitment to, higher education.
- Applicants must be committed to enhancing their community through the documentation of at least 40 hours of community service, or 400 total hours of employment, during their junior and senior years
- Applicants must plan to attend any accredited two-year or four-year college or university, vocational, technical, or trade school
- Preference will be granted to applicants who plan to pursue the field of information technology, computer science, healthcare, or any other skilled trade or technical certification.

## Value

The number of recipients, along with the amount of each scholarship awarded, may vary with fluctuations in the scholarship fund's value. However, the total amount awarded annually will be no less than $10,000, which may be allocated to one or several scholarship recipients. Subject to the fund terms, awards must be applied to the cost of tuition, fees, books, room and board, or educational supplies. Scholarship awards must be used in the year they are awarded, however, funds may be carried over to following years should excess funds remain. All unused and excess funds will be returned to the scholarship fund after four years or upon post-secondary graduation, whichever comes first.

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## Continuing Education

Scholarship recipients must produce enrollment verification to an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, technical, trade, or vocational school in any field of study leading to a degree, diploma or certificate. Additionally, the post-secondary institution must be an educational organization that normally maintains a regular faculty, curriculum, and an enrolled body of pupils or students in attendance at the place where its educational activities are regularly performed. To the extent the institution is involved in the selection of the recipients, if at all, such involvement must comply with the scholarship fund's policy of awarding scholarships on an objective and non-discriminatory basis as well as the scholarship fund's conflict of interest policy.

*"Besides marrying my wife Crystal, and the birth of my daughter, JennaRae, being able to provide this scholarship is one of the proudest and happiest moments in my life. I think we are only scratching the surface of what this can become for the students of East Palestine. I am so excited to see the positive impact this scholarship will have on the recipients, school district, and the community of East Palestine. This will be something everyone can be proud of and rally around."*

**-Eric Wirks**

## Selection Process

The scholarship selection committee shall consist of members appointed by the administration of East Palestine High School along with The Wirks Family. The committee shall consider the respective ability, academic merit, educational goals, career ambitions, and the relative financial need of the applicants as deemed appropriate by the committee. This is a competitive scholarship program. Scholarships shall be awarded on an objective and non-discriminatory basis, with neither race, creed, color, sex, age, religion, national origin nor disability being considered. Selections are based on information received from the application and the additional materials received by the deadline.

Scholarship awardees will be notified in-person at the annual Senior Scholarship Award Program held annually at East Palestine High School.

## Application Information

- Only completed applications that are submitted by the deadline indicated on the application will be considered.

I have read and understand the conditions of The Wirks Family Scholarship as outlined above. I affirm that I meet all eligibility criteria and plan to pursue an education at an applicable institution. I give permission to officials of East Palestine High School to release transcripts of my academic record and other information requested for The Wirks Family Scholarship. I understand that this application will be available only to qualified people who need to see it in the course of their duties. I affirm the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. If selected as a scholarship recipient, I agree to have my name, photo, and any other directory information published by East Palestine High School, The Wirks Family Scholarship, and other affiliated entities as appropriate.

_____ _____

Signature Date

**The Wirks Family Scholarship**

## *Application (Please print)*

**Legal name in full:**

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____

**Permanent residence:**

Number _____ Street _____ Apartment/Suite _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

**Home telephone:** (___)_____

**Cell phone:** (___)_____

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC):** *(From FAFSA)* _____

**E-mail address :** _____

**Date of birth:** _____ Month/Day/Year

**Age:** _____

Office Use Only: Counselor will complete

**Current non-weighted cumulative GPA:** _____ / 4.00

**Number of college credits earned to date (if any):** credits_____

**Class rank:** _____ of _____

**High school activities (student government, sports, publications, school-sponsored community service programs, student-faculty committees, arts, music, etc.). List in descending order of significance. You will have space to list up to six.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Activity #1 | Years Participated |
| Activity #2 | Years Participated |
| Activity #3 | Years Participated |
| Activity #4 | Years Participated |
| Activity #5 | Years Participated |
| Activity #6 | Years Participated |

**List public and community service activities. Do not repeat items listed previously. List in descending order of significance. You will have space to list up to six.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Activity #1 | Dates | Total Hours |
| Activity #2 | Dates | Total Hours |
| Activity #3 | Dates | Total Hours |
| Activity #4 | Dates | Total Hours |
| Activity #5 | Dates | Total Hours |
| Activity #6 | Dates | Total Hours |

**List any part-time and full-time jobs held during your high school enrollment. You will have space to list up to three.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Employer #1 | Position | Dates |
| Contact Name | (___)_____ Phone | Hours/Week |
| Employer #2 | Position | Dates |
| Contact Name | (___)_____ Phone | Hours/Week |
| Employer #3 | Position | Dates |
| Contact Name | (___)_____ Phone | Hours/Week |

**List awards, scholarships, publications or special recognitions you have received. List in descending order of significance. You will have space to list up to six.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Distinction #1 | Date Received |
| Distinction #2 | Date Received |
| Distinction #3 | Date Received |
| Distinction #4 | Date Received |
| Distinction #5 | Date Received |
| Distinction #6 | Date Received |

## Short Answer

**You may elect to type and attach your responses to this application.**

**Describe your post-secondary plans including your intended institution, concentration, or major field of study.**

**Describe one specific example of an instance where you overcame obstacles to achieve a goal.**

**What do you hope to do upon completing your education at the post-secondary level?**

**What position do you hope to have five to seven years after completing your education?**

**What additional information do you wish to share with selection committee?**

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE BY THE LAST FRIDAY IN MARCH**

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