PATRICK J. DIPAOLO
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

Who was Patrick J. DiPaolo?

Dear Scholarship Applicant:



Your interest in this scholarship means you have already heard the name "Patrick J. DiPaolo." But just how much do you know about the magnificent young man for whom this scholarship is named? In a few words, we'll tell you:

He was called by many names: Mr. DiPaolo (teacher); Coach DiPaolo; Principal DiPaolo; Dad; and simply Pat by his wife, parents, sister, teammates and innumerable friends. We'll call him Pat, because above all he was our friend, and although he's gone now we're confident his legacy will become a friend to many who did know him during his short life.

Like many of you, Pat began life with hopes and dreams of personal and professional success. As husband to Beth, father to Julia and Nico, son to District Judge Dominick and Janet Colao DiPaolo, brother to Dawn, and friend to all those within his orbit and even beyond, success was his throughout his life, and especially through more than five years of never losing hope while fighting the insidious Lyme disease and its later stages that finally claimed him. Success also came through a life of hard work as a high school and college academic, artist and athlete that propelled him to a career in teaching, coaching and school administration.

Having reached these successful milestones before he was 33, Pat's greatest legacy, however, was his lifetime mission of helping young men and women attain educational attainment, whether through academics, the arts or athletics, and no matter their station in life. He adopted the motto of the legendary football coach Vince Lombardi, "Winning Isn't Everything, It's The Only Thing!" Pat dedicated his entire career with the Erie School District to one cause: Helping students, who otherwise might not achieve, realize the educational attainment that would prepare them for successful, productive and happy lives. At times, he accomplished this by teaching and sharing his own lifelong learning; at times his help came at his own personal expense.

This was Pat's lasting legacy, one we're confident – with the help of so many others – will continue well into the future. As an applicant for Patrick J. DiPaolo Memorial Scholarship, we wish you well. Already, you, too, are a part of Pat's growing legacy!

Sincerely,

Q. Gregory Orlando, Committee Chairman
Patrick J. DiPaolo Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.

Winning Isn't Everything. It's The Only Thing!

www.wieitot.org



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Patrick J. DiPaolo Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 3073
Erie, Pennsylvania 16508
814-450-2713

Scholarship Application Instructions

Scholarship Requirements:

Applicant must be a college bound senior graduating from an Erie County high school and has been accepted to a college/university. Must have a cumulative 2.5 GPA and recognized as a high school athlete in one or more of the twenty-one sanctioned PIAA sports. Sports include: Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Girls Competitive Spirit, Golf, Gymnastics, Indoor Track and Field, Lacrosse, Rifle, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Water Polo, Wrestling. Applicant had to participate in a sport in their senior year.

Disclaimer:

By accepting the Patrick J. DiPaolo Memorial Scholarship, the recipient accepts all obligations and the responsibility to not place financial aid and other scholarship monies in jeopardy through full disclosure to the college/university you choose to attend. No one affiliated with the Patrick J. DiPaolo Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. can apply.

Reminders:

Write your name at the top of all recommendation forms and check with each person to be sure they return it to you in a sealed envelope in enough time to mail your completed application to us by the deadline below

Do not return this page with your application. It contains pertinent information necessary to procure the second part of your award.

Application Postmark Deadline: February 21, 2026

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Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.
www.wieitot.org

Student Checklist:

1. **Save this sheet for future reference.**
2. Write your name at the top of all forms before you give them out.
3. Collect recommendation forms in a sealed envelope with their signature written across the seal. Check off below as you go to be sure you collect everything.

4. Mail completed application, a copy of your acceptance letter from the college/university of your choice, essay and all required forms postmarked on or before **February 21, 2026.**
5. Forms to include with your application, a brief essay touching on each of the following:
   - ☐ Counselor Form- must include a second semester transcript
   - ☐ Coach/Mentor Recommendation Form
   - ☐ Community Member Page - Letter from Community Service outside of school. Please Read.
   - ☐ School/Staff Recommendation Form
6. Write a Narrative-Include with your application, a brief essay touching on each of the following:
   - ❖ Who are you and how did you get to this point?
   - ❖ Plans for future including now and after college
   - ❖ Activities, clubs and organizations for which you participated
   - ❖ Community Service organizations for which you participated - (outside of school)
   - ❖ Employment/Leadership experiences throughout high school
   - ❖ Describe what it means to be a student-athlete and how has playing a sport impacted your life.
   - ❖ Describe for us your need for financial assistance and the impact it will have as you begin your college career.
   - ❖ "Who was Patrick J. DiPaolo" – watching the video on www.wieitot.org
     Explain what it meant to you. (Summarize in Detail)
7. Mail Information- Postmark by February 21, 2026
   - ☐ Application Page
   - ☐ Counselor Form with transcript
   - ☐ Three (3) Recommendation Forms
   - ☐ Copy of your Essay
   - ☐ Copy of your acceptance letter to a college/university of your choice
8. If accepted, Congratulations! Your award will come to you in two separate shares; the first installment will occur during your first semester of your freshman year with proof of enrollment and the second installment is distributed during second semester.
   - ☐ A copy of your first semester schedule mailed to the address below.
   - ☐ A copy of your second semester schedule mailed to the address below.

Application Postmark Deadline: February 21, 2026

Mail to:

Patrick J. DiPaolo Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.
PO Box 3073
Erie, Pennsylvania 16508

If any of the above information is not answered, your application will not be processed.



Patrick J. DiPaolo
Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.
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Student and Parent Information (Please print or type)

Last _____First _____Middle_____

High School_____

Home Address _____

City and Zip code_____

Home Phone_____ Parent Email_____

_____

Name(s) Parent/Guardian, Occupation & Place of Employment_____

Name(s) Step Parent/Guardian & Occupation & Place of Employment_____

Siblings names living in household and ages:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

A Needs-Based Scholarship is established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Gross PA Total Income 2024

Father/Step Father Male Guardian, Earned Income $_____

Mother/Step Mother Female Guardian, Earned Income $_____

Other Persons Contributing to Household Income $_____

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Intended Major/Minor in college_____

Yearly cost of College _____

Additional Scholarships you are/will be receiving and amount_____

Activities: Please list any extracurricular activities, in school. Attach additional sheet, if needed:_____

_____

Achievements: Summarize your academic achievements as well as accolades in your athletic career (attach another sheet, if needed)

_____

_____

By signing below, I affirm all information is correct and obligations assumed.

Student Signature_____Date_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____Date_____

Step Parent/Guardian Signature_____Date_____

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Community Service Requirements

All community service must be done outside of the scope of school activities.

The Scholarship Committee has decided to clarify the requirement of community service to those who are applying for this scholarship. All applicants must have completed community service outside of the scope of school activities, meaning that what your school may consider as community service hours or volunteer hours for school events, this committee will not accept these hours as community service. For example, you work at your school's open house event and receive four hours of service from the school, or you tutor students before and after school on a weekly basis. These would not be accepted under the guidelines. Another example would be that as a student-athlete you participate in an off-season camp for the youth of your sport as a volunteer coach. These hours would not be accepted as well.

The Scholarship Committee is interested in seeing the youth of Erie County serve Erie County and that is achieved by truly giving back to the community. There are many organizations out there that previous applicants have volunteered for. Some examples include the Red Cross, the Cancer Society, local animal shelters, or even church functions like dinners and festivals. If your school hosts an event and you volunteer for that event, this would be acceptable. An example of this would be your high school is sponsoring a Thanksgiving Day dinner event in which you feed the community. Your hours working at this event is very different to working at your school or assisting with a sport you play.

In order for your community service to be recognized and accepted by the Scholarship Committee, you must submit a letter from that organization, on their organization letterhead, stating what type of service you performed and the number of hours you completed. A signature by the person in charge of the organization is also required.

It is very important that all requirements are met in order for your application to be processed. If any part of the application is incomplete, the application will be disqualified from the selection process.

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Coach/Mentor Recommendation Form

Student Name_____

School _____

Print Name_____ Email Address_____

Signature_____Date_____Phone_____

Please rate the student by only checking one box. Fill out as best you can and add notes to explain your position to help your student. Attach additional notes or write on the back. (Student has to to participate in a sport their senior year).

Descriptor	Below Average	Average	Outstanding	Comments
Attendance and Punctuality -Attends school regularly/on time -Arrives to practice/games regularly/on time				
Communication -Participates in team activities -Verbalizes thoughts/ideas -Conveys written ideas in a clear manner				
Dependability -Demonstrates desire to get involved -Completes tasks in a timely manner -Exhibits commitment to team/ school				
Enthusiasm -Shows initiative -Demonstrates determination -Displays interest in a better school				
Interpersonal Skills -Rapport with staff and teammates -Civility				
Sportsmanship -exemplifies behaviors of fair play, respect for opponents/teammates, and graciousness in winning and losing				
Behavior -Cooperates with peers/staff -Resolves differences or misunderstanding respectfully and appropriately				

Must have a letter from Coach attached.

Return confidential recommendation promptly in a sealed envelope and sign your name across the seal.

Deadline for submission is February 21, 2026

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Community Member Recommendation Form, Outside of School

READ COMMUNITY SERVICE PAGE

Student Name_____

School _____

Print Name_____ Email Address_____

Signature_____Date_____Phone_____

Please rate the student by only checking one box. Fill out as best you can and add notes to explain your position to help your student. Attach additional notes or write on the back. Letter must accompany this form from Community Member recomendation.

Descriptor	Below Average	Average	Outstanding	Comments
Attendance and Punctuality -Attends meetings/events regularly -Punctual -Dependable				
Communication -Participates in discussions -Verbalizes thoughts/ideas -Conveys written ideas in a clear manner				
Dependability -Demonstrates desire for helping -Completes tasks in a timely manner -Exhibits commitment goals				
Enthusiasm -Shows initiative -Demonstrates determination -Displays interest in doing a good job				
Interpersonal Skills -Rapport with peers and adults -Respects others				
Quality of Work -Exhibits high standards of a job well done -Demonstrates organizational skills				
Behavior -Cooperates with peers and adults -Resolves differences or misunderstanding respectfully and appropriately				

Must have a letter attached of Community Service - signed by person in charge.

Return confidential recommendation promptly in a sealed envelope and sign your name across the seal.

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Counselor Recommendation Form

Student Name_____

School _____

Print Name_____ Email Address_____

Signature_____Date_____Phone_____

Please rate the student by only checking one box. Fill out as best you can and add notes to explain your position to help your student. Attach additional notes or write on the back.

Within the last 18 months...	Below Average	Average	Outstanding	Comments
Attendance and Punctuality -Attends school regularly/on time -Change/increase in unexcused absences/ tardies				
Communication -Participates in school activities -Conveys ideas in a clear appropriate manner				
Dependability -Demonstrates desire to get involved -Exhibits commitment to school betterment				
Enthusiasm -Shows initiative -Demonstrates determination				
Interpersonal Skills -Rapport with staff and teammates -Civility				
Community -Involved in school based and/or community service programs -Engaged in gainful work or CoOp work experience				
Behavior -Cooperates with peers/staff -Resolves differences or misunderstanding respectfully and appropriately				

Must have a letter from Counselor attached.

Return confidential recommendation promptly in a sealed envelope and sign your name across the seal.

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School/Staff Recommendation Form

Student Name_____

School _____

Print Name_____ Email Address_____

Signature_____Date_____Phone_____

Please rate the student by only checking one box. Fill out as best you can and add notes to explain your position to help your student. Attach additional notes or write on the back.

Descriptor	Below Average	Average	Outstanding	Comments
Attendance and Punctuality -Attends school regularly/on time -Arrives to class on time				
Communication -Participates in school activities -Verbalizes thoughts/ideas -Conveys written ideas in a clear appropriate manner				
Dependability -Demonstrates desire to get involved -Completes tasks in a timely manner -Exhibits commitment to team/school				
Enthusiasm -Shows initiative -Demonstrates determination -Displays interest in a better school				
Interpersonal Skills -Rapport with staff and teammates -Civility				
Quality of Work -Demonstrates organizational skills -Civility				
Behavior -Cooperates with peers/staff -Resolves differences or misunderstanding respectfully and appropriately				

Must have a letter from School/Staff attached.

Return confidential recommendation promptly in a sealed envelope and sign your name across the seal.

Deadline for submission is February 21, 2026

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