

## ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

**Freedom First members and dependents of members are eligible to apply.**

### **Charles Perkins Scholarships**

These scholarships are named in honor of Charles Perkins, who served as general manager and president of Freedom First Credit Union. Three \$1,500 scholarships are awarded each year in his name.

### **Fritz Kehn Scholarship**

The \$1,500 Fritz Kehn scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Fred D. "Fritz" Kehn, one of the original members of the Credit Union. A former General Electric sheet metal foreman in Salem, Fritz served as the first Credit Union president in 1956. His dedication continued as a member of the Board of Directors.

### **City of Salem/Frank Turk Scholarship**

A \$1,500 scholarship is awarded each year in recognition of the City of Salem Employees Credit Union. Frank Turk served as its president from 1978 to 2004 and was elected to the Freedom First Board of Directors in 2004.

### **Tim Sutphin Scholarship**

A \$1,500 scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Tim Sutphin, who served on the Freedom First Board of Directors for over 20 years. Tim's compassion and uncompromising belief in the Credit Union principle of "People Helping People" gives solid foundation to the honor and high praise he has earned from Credit Union volunteers and members he has served over the years.

### **Application**

Fill out page two of this document and submit it via email to [education@freedomfirst.com](mailto:education@freedomfirst.com)

#### **Qualifications**

- High School senior or college student with a minimum of one semester remaining until degree. Adult learners and/or individuals taking workforce or career certification courses may also apply.
- Must be a member of Freedom First Credit Union.
- City of Salem/Frank Turk Scholarship applicants must have an employment relationship with the City of Salem, City of Salem School Division, or Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare.

#### **Required Information**

- A completed application form with attachments must be received by **3:00 p.m. on May 1, 2026**.
- An official high school (if you are a high school senior) or college (if you are a college student) transcript.
- One letter of recommendation. Can be from a friend, family member, employer, teacher, school counselor, or school administrator.

### **Judging**

Applicants will be judged on academic achievement, work ethic, civic involvement, financial need, and an essay. Greater consideration will be given to applications that have demonstrated a financial need. An independent committee will review the applications. Winners will be notified by phone or letter.

---

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please type or print all information. Scholarship applications are accepted only for the academic year submitted.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom First account number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Schools/colleges to which you have applied/been accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

School/college you expect to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected tuition and fees: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I give Freedom First permission to use my photograph, quotes, name, and general information about my relationship with the Credit Union on social media or other publication platforms. **YES** **NO**

**Please include the following information as separate attachments.**

Are you also applying for the City of Salem/Frank Turk Scholarship? **YES** **NO**

**If yes to either of these questions, please provide eligibility. (See additional qualification notes below\*)**

1. An official high school (if you are a high school senior) or college (if you are a college student) transcript.
2. One letter of recommendation. Can be from a friend, family member, employer, teacher, school counselor, or school administrator.
3. A description of your career goal.
4. An essay of not more than 1,000 words to describe one of the following:
  - a. "How Freedom First Credit Union has helped me or my family,"
  - b. "Why Freedom First Credit Union is important to my community," or
  - c. "Why a college degree is important to me"
5. A statement explaining your financial need.
6. Any additional considerations which you would like the scholarship committee to consider (Optional: a list of your participation in school activities (i.e. athletics/clubs) from 9th grade to present, a list of any awards, honors, etc. you have received while in high school or college).

**\*Additional Qualification Notes:** If you are applying for the City of Salem/Frank Turk Scholarship, please also list your parent/guardian's place of employment. Applicants must have an employment relationship with the City of Salem, City of Salem School Division, or Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare to be considered for the City of Salem/Frank Turk Scholarship.

**Sign this application and submit your complete package by email before 3:00p.m. on May 1, 2026, to:**  
Or EMAIL: [education@freedomfirst.com](mailto:education@freedomfirst.com)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date