

February 12, 2010

TO: All Affiliates
FROM: Vance McCrary, AOLAF Chairperson
SUBJECT: **2010 Alabama Organized Labor Awards Foundation Essay Contest**

I am pleased to announce the **2010 AOLAF Essay Contest**. This year there will be five (5) scholarship recipients to be awarded as follows:

The 2010 Birmingham Building Trades Towers Inc. Scholarships:

3 - \$2,000.00 Scholarships funded by **Birmingham Building Trades Towers, Inc.**

The 2010 James Albright Memorial Scholarship:

1 - \$1,500.00 Scholarship funded by **The Gardner Firm PC**

The 2010 Jack Baccari Memorial Scholarship:

1 - \$1,000.00 Scholarship funded by **Financial Matters LLC**

This year our essay topic will be: ***“U. S. Labor productivity has increased continuously since the 1950’s yet real wages for workers have decreased steadily since 1973. How can labor unions reverse this trend and put wages and benefits back in line with productivity and profits?”***

The contest is open to current Alabama union members, their spouses and dependents that are full or part time post-secondary students. All essays must be submitted by **Friday, May 28, 2010** and the winner will be announced at the banquet on **August 21, 2010**. Enclosed, please find an announcement and a contest packet. Please post the announcement and keep copies of the instruction and application forms available for your membership.

We also invite you to purchase a table at the annual banquet on **Saturday, August 21st** to help us honor our labor leaders and fund an Alabama Labor Archives. A table of ten is only \$500.00 and individual tickets can be purchased for \$50.00 each.

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Enclosure

**2010 ALABAMA ORGANIZED LABOR AWARDS FOUNDATION
ESSAY CONTEST**

Birmingham Building Trades Towers, Inc. Scholarships
James Albright Memorial Scholarship
Jack Baccari Memorial Scholarship

Instructions for Applicants

Scholarships: 3 - \$2,000.00 funded by ***Birmingham Building Trades Towers, Inc.***
1 - \$1,500.00 funded by ***The Gardner Firm PC***
1 - \$1,000.00 funded by ***Financial Matters LLC***

Purposes: To help qualified union-affiliated college students meet the expenses of college
To encourage reading and research on labor history
To connect the legacy of labor to personal life experiences

Eligibility: Current Alabama union members, their spouses, and their dependents
Applicant must be a full or part-time post secondary student for fall semester 2010
Applicant must submit verification of enrollment and proof of union affiliation with the scholarship application and essay

Deadline: Applications must be postmarked by **Friday, May 28, 2010**

To apply: 1. Fill out the application form
2. Read the tips for writing a good essay
3. Write a good essay
4. Attach the essay and application form to the enrollment verification and union card

Mail the whole package by **Friday, May 28, 2010** to:

Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR)
Jefferson State Community College
Fitzgerald Building, Suite 405
2601 Carson Road
Birmingham, AL 35215

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Birmingham Building Trades Towers, Inc. Scholarships
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Application Form and Cover Page

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I am a: _____ union member _____ union member's spouse
_____ union member's child _____ other (please specify): _____

Union Member's Name: _____ **Union/Local:** _____

Date of High School Graduation: _____

Name of High School and City: _____

College or University Attending: _____

Major Course of Study: _____

Academic Standing: _____ Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior _____ Senior _____ Other _____

The above information accurately describes the achievements and plans of the applicant. If there are changes in this information, we will contact the Alabama Organized Labor Awards Foundation (AOLAF).

Signature of Union Member

Signature of Applicant

Attached: _____ Essay
_____ Verification of Enrollment
_____ Verification of Union Membership

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Tips for Writing a Good Essay

These are big scholarships! Put some time and effort into researching, writing and typing your essay. Your judges are used to grading the papers of college students, so they expect you to show that you're capable of doing a good job at the college level.

Essay Topic: **“U. S. Labor productivity has increased continuously since the 1950’s yet real wages for workers have decreased steadily since 1973. How can labor unions reverse this trend and put wages and benefits back in line with productivity and profits?”**

Essay length: 300-500 words

Essay format: Typed on 8 ½ x 11 paper
Double spaced
Use black – not blue, red or green – ink!
Do not put your name or the name of the union member on the essay

Research: Read! Use books, magazines, journals or newspapers to get information. Talk to your family members and friends about unions.
Do NOT use an encyclopedia!
Be very careful if you use the Internet. Make sure your source is credible

Analysis: Integrate what you've read with your experiences and those of your family and community
Apply what you've read to the essay topic

Writing: Be sure to indicate when you are quoting from a source
Document your sources
Proofread your essay to make sure that your grammar and spelling are correct!
Have a teacher or other trusted adult read your essay