

Destination Graduation 2020: Forging the Way Forward!

Essay Contest Details

May 22nd- 23rd, 2020 – Cleveland State University



Contestants: The contest is open to youth currently impacted by the foster care system, approaching emancipation, high school completion, and any college student who has experienced foster care. All applicants must be a resident of the state of Ohio.

When: **The essay and entry form must be submitted online by Noon EST, April 24th, 2020** (No Exceptions). Details for essay submission. <https://www.csuohio.edu/engagement/essay-contest>

What: The essay must respond to the contest theme. The submission must be the original work of the participant and must not exceed 750 words. Essays must be typed double-spaced using 12 pt. Times New Roman font and submitted as a pdf. Please note that *No identifying* information of students may be included anywhere except on the cover page. Only one essay may be submitted per contestant. A complete submission packet must include:

- A contest entry form completed and submitted online;
- A cover page to the essay with only the full name of the student, the name of the school and the word count
- The essay, uploaded and submitted online with the completed cover page and contest entry form.

ESSAY CONTEST THEME: *As of January 2020, the state of Ohio identified over 16,000 foster children in care, with a 30% increase since 2011 mainly attributed to opioid-addicted parents. Given the alarming realities of these statistics and as a youth impacted by the foster care system please respond to one of the following prompts: A). What does access to a high-quality education mean to you? B). In what ways could the foster care system best prepare youth for transitioning (aging-out) out of care? C). How do you plan to leverage the transformative power of education to improve the lives of those youth who remain in care?*

Recognition: **First Prize - \$1000 Scholarship to Cleveland State University and a \$500-dollar cash value prize, Second Place \$500 Scholarship to Cleveland State University and a \$250-dollar cash value prize, Third place \$ 250 Book Scholarship to Cleveland State University and a \$100-dollar cash value prize.** Winners will be announced on May 22nd, 2020 and recognized at The Helen Packer Scholarship Award Dinner on that same day. **(ALL SCHOLARSHIPS MUST BE APPLIED TO CLEVELAND STATE UNIVEIRSITY, AND MUST BE USED WITHIN ONE CALENDAR YEAR OF AWARD. SCHOLARSHIPS MAY BE APPLIED TO SHORT-TERM WORK CERTIFICATE/ CREDENTIAL, UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE, BOOKS, MEAL PLANS, AND OR GAP TUITION ASSISTANCE.)**