

Scholarship Announcement

The Dr. Brett Cassens Memorial Scholarship

The Dean of Students Office is pleased to announce the availability of applications for the "Dr. Brett Cassens Memorial Scholarship". Applications are also available at the Diversity Advocacy Office and online at <http://www.deanofstudents.ilstu.edu/diversityadvocacy/scholarships>.

Applications are now being accepted for this award and are due by March 20, 2009. A selection committee will review the applications in light of the criteria for the award. Applicants for this memorial scholarship should be gay, lesbian or bisexual undergraduates at the junior or senior level and should have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Applicants must demonstrate in writing their commitment to a career in medicine.

This scholarship, in Brett's memory, was established through memorial gifts made by family, friends, and colleagues, and through a gift from the Cassens/Stille Trust. Dr. Cassens was born in Sterling, IL and graduated from Illinois State University in 1972. He also held degrees from the University of Illinois - Rockford School of Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania - Wharton School of Business. Brett moved to San Diego, CA where he became one of the first physicians in the area to treat Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). According to Dr. Keith Vrhel, of the Park Center of Health in San Diego, throughout Dr. Cassens' life he "cared for a large number of patients with HIV and he was an extremely compassionate, understanding physician."

The purpose in creating this scholarship was to show support for the gay, lesbian and bisexual community at Illinois State University as well as supporting students who have interest in pursuing careers in medicine. The scholarship is a one-time stipend of \$1,000.

For full consideration, all applications must be submitted to the Dean of Students Office, Attention Rick Lewis, Campus Box 3090 by 4:30 p.m. on March 20, 2009. If you have any questions regarding the Brett Cassens Memorial Scholarship, please contact Rick Lewis at 438-2008 or email at rlewis@ilstu.edu.

Dr. Brett Cassens Memorial Scholarship Application

(Please print or type)

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Year in School: _____

Email Address: _____

Major/Minor: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____

Please complete the demographic information requested above and respond to the questions that follow. In addition, all applicants must sign the following statement indicating they meet all the criteria for this award and that they will allow the Dean of Students Office at Illinois State University to verify their grade point average. If additional space is needed, please limit responses to one additional page. The selection of the scholarship recipient will be based solely upon the responses to the questions and must include agreement with the following statement.

I am a junior or senior student in good academic standing at Illinois State and it is my intention to pursue a career in medicine upon completion of my degree at Illinois State University. I authorize the Dean of Students Office to verify my cumulative grade point average, academic standing, and year in school.

Signature

Date

Please respond to the following questions in separate document and attach to your application:

1. When did you first develop an interest in the medical field?
2. Please describe your commitment to and reasons for pursuing a career in medicine.
3. How do you plan to pursue this career path?
4. In what ways have you participated in programs targeting the gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered community?

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2009 to Rick Lewis at the Dean of Students Office, Campus Box 3090, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois 61790-3090