



## 2025 SPRING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKET

At the heart of NCEDA's and the NCEDA Foundation's mission is professional development, recognizing that ongoing education is essential for the career growth of practitioners at every stage. As economic development becomes increasingly collaborative, visible, and technically advanced, it's crucial for leaders in the field to continually update their skills, knowledge, and credentials. The NCEDA Foundation is pleased to offer the following scholarships to enhance access to professional development opportunities and strengthen the overall capacity of our economic development community:

- **Dan Stewart Basic Economic Development Course Scholarship**, which pays \$700 for tuition, plus reimbursement for all travel, lodging, meal, and ancillary expenses, to attend the one-week Basic Economic Development Course held annually at UNC Chapel Hill. Multiple scholarships may be offered.  
**Estimated Value per Scholarship: \$1,600 (tuition + additional expenses)**
- **North Carolina Economic Development Academy Scholarship**, which pays \$395 for tuition plus reimbursement for all travel, lodging, meal, and ancillary expenses to attend one course offering of the North Carolina Certified Economic Developer program at ECU. Multiple scholarships may be offered.  
**Estimated Value per Scholarship: \$1,100 (tuition + additional expenses)**
- **Jack Ervin IEDC Scholarship**, which pays up to \$1,000 toward tuition, plus reimbursement for travel, lodging, meals, and ancillary expenses for one course offered by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). Multiple scholarships may be offered.  
**Estimated Value: \$2,000 (tuition + additional expenses)**
- **NCEDA Presidential Leadership Scholarship**, *in honor of NCEDA Past Presidents*, which pays \$1,795 for tuition, plus reimbursement for all travel, lodging, meal, and ancillary expenses, for seasoned executives to experience training at the Advanced Economic Development Leadership training course. One of these scholarships will be offered.  
**Estimated Value: \$3,500 (tuition + additional expenses)**
- **IEDC Certification Scholarship**, which pays up to \$850 for the exam registration fees associated with the Certified Economic Developer designation. Multiple scholarships may be offered.  
**Estimated Value per Scholarship: \$850**

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## SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

### Dan Stewart Basic Economic Development Course Scholarship

Dan Stewart was committed to economic development as a means of creating a better North Carolina. Stewart's career in economic development at NC State University and CP&L led to his appointment as director of the NC Department of Conservation and Development in the early 1960s. The Dan Stewart scholarship provides the full tuition, and all other expenses associated with the Basic Economic Development Course offered at UNC Chapel Hill, a four-day program held each summer. Accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the Basic Course supports professionals in the early stages of their careers and is the first required course for those considering certification through the IEDC or the NC Certified Economic Developer program. Topics include economic development tools for attraction, expansion, marketing, finance, and management. Presenters include academics, site selection consultants and seasoned professionals in the economic development field. Course participants meet others from throughout the state and country, building invaluable contacts and forming lasting relationships. The 2025 BEDC is scheduled for July 28 –31 in Chapel Hill. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

NCEDA dispenses scholarship funds as a reimbursement pending proof of payment in the form of a direct receipt from UNC Chapel Hill and receipts for all travel, lodging, meal, and ancillary expenses. The lodging reimbursement rate may be no more than the group rate at the base hotel coordinated by the program.

### North Carolina Economic Development Academy Scholarship

East Carolina University, in partnership with NCEDA, unveiled the North Carolina Certified Economic Developer curriculum in 2019. Courses offer rigorous, practical instruction in solutions, strategies, and programs unique to North Carolina. This scholarship provides the full cost of tuition for one course plus all associated expenses. The 1.5-day courses are held on the ECU campus in Greenville. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

NCEDA dispenses scholarship funds as a reimbursement pending proof of payment in the form of a direct receipt from ECU and receipts for all travel, lodging, meal, and ancillary expenses. The lodging reimbursement rate may be no more than the group rate at the base hotel coordinated by the program.

### Jack Ervin IEDC Scholarship

Jack Ervin was the executive director of the Columbus County EDC for 11 years. During that time, Ervin located 21 new industries, helped create more than 1,800 jobs and was instrumental in organizing the Columbus County Committee of 100. Ervin was NCEDA President in 1988-1989. The Jack Ervin scholarship provides up to \$1,000 toward tuition, plus travel, lodging, meals, and ancillary expenses for one course offered by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). IEDC is the membership association serving the economic development profession worldwide, and IEDC courses are offered throughout the year, covering both key topics and specialized issues. Content focuses on real life experiences, best practices and practical tools economic development professionals can apply in their communities. Click [HERE](#) to view upcoming courses.

NCEDA dispenses scholarship funds as a reimbursement pending proof of payment in the form of a direct receipt from IEDC and receipts for all travel, lodging, meal, and ancillary expenses. The lodging reimbursement rate may be no more than the group rate at the base hotel coordinated by the program. **Applicants must have completed two years in economic development work and must show completion of the Basic Economic Development Course to be eligible for this scholarship.**

### IEDC Certification Scholarship

The IEDC Certification Scholarship supports professionals seeking to obtain their CEcD designation. This scholarship pays up to \$825 for the exam registration fees associated with the Certified Economic Developer designation. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

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## NCEDA Presidential Leadership Scholarship

The NCEDA Presidential Leadership Scholarship honors the Past Presidents of NCEDA and supports a seasoned executive with significant experience in economic development to participate in the Advanced Economic Development Leadership (AEDL) program. AEDL is an experiential one-week program designed specifically for mid and senior level economic developers who want to examine contemporary issues on a deeper level. The 2025 program is scheduled for November 3-6 in Kansas City, MO. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

NCEDA dispenses scholarship funds as a reimbursement pending proof of payment in the form of a direct receipt from AEDL and receipts for all travel, lodging, meal, and ancillary expenses. The lodging reimbursement rate may be no more than the group rate at the base hotel coordinated by the program.

## NCEDA SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

NCEDA scholarships are intended to support professional advancement by removing financial barriers to accessing professional development opportunities. The primary criteria for selection will be demonstrated financial need, with some focus on distressed areas in North Carolina, followed by a demonstrated strong desire for ongoing professional development to bolster a successful career in economic development. A third element will be the presentation of the application itself. **ALL INFORMATION SUBMITTED IS CONFIDENTIAL.** The following information may help you in developing your application:

### Financial Need

Given the vast differences among organizations, budget structures and funding levels, it is difficult to impose a single "one size fits all" criteria to determine need. The key is articulating your case as factually and effectively as necessary to demonstrate and document financial need.

### Professional Development

Successful applicants are typically those who demonstrate or express a long-term professional and personal interest in an economic development career. Demonstrate convincingly your career path in the profession (past, present and future) and how the program for which you are applying fits into that vision.

### Application Presentation

Be it to clients, boards or communities, economic developers make their living making presentations. Consider this application exercise good practice. Is the information complete and easy to read? Is it well organized and attractively and creatively formatted? Most importantly, does it effectively tell your story? Supporting documentation or letters of recommendation are helpful.

### Other Criteria

- Applicants must be residents of and work in North Carolina.
- Applicants **must be members of NCEDA** for duration of the program.
- Recipients must be committed to complete all course work.
- Although scholarships reimburse tuition, travel and other expenses, recipients will be responsible for any and all expenses not covered by the scholarship, if applicable.

### Submission Instructions

Submit application package as an electronic file to [liz@nceda.org](mailto:liz@nceda.org). **Applications are due on or before 5 pm on Friday, February 14.** Please contact Liz at 888.246.2332 with any questions or if you do not receive confirmation of receipt. The 2025 NCEDA Foundation Spring scholarship recipient(s) will be announced at the 2025 Spring Conference on Tuesday, March 4 in Pinehurst.



## 2025 NCEDA FOUNDATION SPRING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**Applicants may apply for more than one scholarship. However, candidates are not eligible to receive more than one scholarship in each cycle. Select the scholarship(s) for which you are submitting:**

**Dan Stewart Basic Economic Development Course Scholarship** *(Open to all NCEDA members.)*

**North Carolina Economic Development Academy Scholarship** *(Open to all NCEDA members.)*

**Jack Ervin IEDC Scholarship** *(Open to NCEDA members who have completed two years of economic development work and have completed the Basic Economic Development Course.)*

**IEDC Certification Scholarship** *(Open to all NCEDA members seeking certification assistance.)*

**NCEDA Presidential Leadership Scholarship** *(Open to NCEDA members with significant economic development experience.)*

### Applicant Information

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

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Professional Development Information

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

How long in current position? \_\_\_\_\_ How long in EconDev? \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage of time spent in economic development activity: \_\_\_\_\_

List any activities, memberships, awards, etc., in or related to economic development:

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Please provide the following additional information:

Describe current duties. (attach separate sheet)

Share previous employment history and educational information (attach resume)

What benefits do you hope to derive from attending the course/program of the scholarship for which you are applying? (attach separate sheet)

State your case. Please provide additional information using documentation, letters, etc., that best describes your need. (attach separate sheet)

## Financial Information

Employer Organization Type and Description (attach separate sheet if necessary)

100% Public

100% Private Nonprofit

100% Private For-Profit

Public-Private Partnership

Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Budget for ED Program: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Last FY Budget: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Current FY Budget: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Projected Next FY Budget: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Describe source of funds for economic development program / staff (use additional sheet if needed):

Have you made arrangements to cover additional expenses if applicable? Yes No

## Applicant Certification

Applicant resides and works in North Carolina; is a current member of NCEDA; will complete course if selected and has approval for additional costs associated with attendance.

Required Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of supervisor approving participation in the course/program for which you are applying:**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 5 PM ON FEBRUARY 14, 2025.**

Submit application package as an electronic file to [liz@nceda.org](mailto:liz@nceda.org).

Contact Liz at 888.246.2332 with any questions or if you do not receive confirmation of receipt.