



2026 SPRING STUDENT MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKET

At the heart of NCEDA's and the NCEDA Foundation's mission is professional development, and we know that supporting students is key to building the next generation of economic development leaders. Ongoing learning, exposure to best practices, and connections within the profession are essential for career growth – and the earlier students can engage, the stronger their foundation for success.

The NCEDA Foundation is proud to offer scholarships to NCEDA student members, designed to provide meaningful access to professional development opportunities. These scholarships help students explore the field, build skills, and connect with experienced practitioners, giving them a head start in understanding and contributing to North Carolina's economic development community. By supporting students now, we're investing in the future leaders, innovators, and changemakers of the state's economic development profession.

- ***Student Member Basic Economic Development Course Scholarship***, which pays for tuition, plus reimbursement of all travel, lodging, meals, and ancillary expenses, to attend the one-week Basic Economic Development Course held annually at UNC Chapel Hill. Two scholarships will be offered.
Estimated Value: \$1,600 (tuition + additional expenses)
- ***Student Member NCEDA Annual Conference Scholarship***, which pays for conference registration, plus reimbursement of all travel, lodging, meals, and ancillary expenses, to attend NCEDA's 2026 Annual Conference, June 17-19, in Wilmington, NC. Two scholarships will be offered.
Estimated Value: \$800 (registration + additional expenses)

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

Student Member Basic Economic Development Course Scholarship

This 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 for two NCEDA student members. 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 2026 BEDC is scheduled for July 27 –30 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, meals, and ancillary expenses. The lodging reimbursement rate may be no more than the group rate at the base hotel coordinated by the program.

2026 NCEDA FOUNDATION SPRING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKET

Student Member NCEDA Annual Conference Scholarship

This scholarship provides the registration fee, and all other expenses associated with NCEDA's 2026 Annual Conference for two NCEDA student members. Annual Conference attendees meet others from throughout the state and country, building invaluable contacts and forming lasting relationships. The 2026 Annual Conference will be held June 17-19 in Wilmington. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

NCEDA SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

NCEDA scholarships are intended to support professional and educational 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 learning more about the profession to foster 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:

- Successful applicants will demonstrate a strong interest in learning more about economic development and pursuing a career in the field. Demonstrate convincingly your interest in a career path in the profession and how the program for which you are applying will help you pursue your career goals.
- 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.

Criteria

- Applicants **must be student members of NCEDA** for the duration of the program.
- Recipients must be committed to completing all coursework.

Submission Instructions

Submit application package as a PDF file to blair@nceda.org. **Applications are due on or before 5 pm on Friday, February 27.** Please contact Blair at 888.246.2332 with any questions or if you do not receive confirmation of receipt. The 2026 NCEDA Foundation Spring scholarship recipients will be announced at the 2026 Spring Conference on Tuesday, March 10 in Greensboro.



2026 NCEDA FOUNDATION STUDENT MEMBER SPRING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applicants may apply for multiple scholarships, but each candidate may receive only one scholarship per cycle. Please indicate the scholarship(s) for which you are applying:

Student Member **Basic Economic Development Course Scholarship** (Open to all NCEDA student members.)

Student Member **Annual Conference Scholarship** (Open to all NCEDA student members.)

Applicant Information

Name: _____

College / University: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Educational Information

Undergrad or Graduate Student?: _____ Est. Graduation Date: _____

Graduate Program (if applicable): _____

List any extra-curricular activities, club memberships, awards, etc.:

Please submit the following as separate documents:

Cover Letter: State your case. What benefits do you hope to derive from attending the course/program of the scholarship for which you are applying?

Current Resume: Provide your educational information and any prior employment history if applicable.

Applicant Certification

By signing this application, the applicant certifies they are a student at a North Carolina college or university; are a current student member of NCEDA; and will complete the course if selected.

Applicant Signature: _____

Submit application package as a PDF to blair@nceda.org. Contact Blair at 888.246.2332 with any questions or if you do not receive confirmation of receipt. **The application deadline is 5 pm on Friday, February 27.**