

# *The Sandy Casey Scholarship*

## **INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

The Sandy Casey Scholarship was established in 2017 with major support from the *Bennington Banner*, the *Manchester Journal*, Burr & Burton Academy and Southwestern Vermont Health Care and friends of Sandy Casey and her family, to benefit Bennington County students who combine academic achievement with a desire to work with children. The scholarship and the award program is administered by the Sandy Casey Scholarship, Inc., a Vermont non-profit corporation.

Sandy Casey was born and raised in East Dorset, Vermont, and she graduated from Burr & Burton Academy and received degrees from the College of Saint Joseph in Rutland, Vermont and Assumption College. She was pursuing a career in special education in Manhattan Beach, California when she was killed in a mass shooting that occurred on October 1, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

While Sandy was a student at Burr & Burton, she was an outstanding basketball player whose coaches admired her positive attitude and her teamwork. The superintendent of the school district in which she worked called Sandy “a spectacular teacher who devoted her life to helping some of our most needy students.”

## **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the 2019 award, you must meet one of the following the following educational qualifications, and area residence requirement below.

- You will graduate from high school in 2019 and plan to enter your first year of higher education in the fall of 2019, OR:
- You graduated from high school in 2017 or 2018 and deferred college enrollment for one or two years, but plan to enter your first year of college in the fall of 2019, OR:
- You plan to enter college in the fall of 2019 following a period of active military service.

Graduates, or graduating seniors, of any public or private high school in Bennington County, Vermont qualify.

## **AWARDS**

The award is competitive, and will be given at the discretion of the committee to a single student who exhibits the qualities that Sandy Casey was known for including teamwork, voluntarism and academic achievement. The winning applicant must also have a strong interest in the pursuit of education and a career either in service to children especially those who are disadvantaged, has a meritorious record of academic and community achievement while in high school. Finally, each applicant should have a bona fide need for financial assistance to attend college. Applications will be reviewed by the committee consider these criteria.

The fund will make a one-time award in an amount to be determined; last year's award was \$2,550.

**DEADLINE**

All completed applications must be received by the Committee, or postmarked, by midnight, Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

**TO APPLY**

Complete the attached application form and send it to:

Sandy Casey Scholarship  
c/o David LaChance, Editor  
Bennington Banner  
425 Main Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

With the application form, please enclose:

- A certified transcript of high school grades
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a recent teacher and one from a counselor, community leader or employer
- A typed or printed essay, the requirements for which are described in the application form (maximum 750 words)
- Evidence of acceptance to an accredited college or university offering a course of study focused on elementary education, special education or early childhood development.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application form and all attachments are received by the deadline date – the committee will send no notification of missing materials.

**REVIEW PROCESS**

Applications will be reviewed by the Sandy Casey Scholarship Committee, which includes the publisher of the Bennington Banner, a representative Southwestern Vermont Health Care and a member of the Casey family.

**QUESTIONS:**

Please contact David LaChance 802-447-7567, ext. 115 or [dlachance@benningtonbanner.com](mailto:dlachance@benningtonbanner.com)