



Proposed Modification of the JJ Staff Scholar Award's Eligibility Criteria

The JJ Staff Scholar Award (the “Award”) was established by members of Ithaca College’s Staff Council in May 1997 to commemorate Ithaca College’s then-president James J. Whalen by awarding scholarships to staff members pursuing a degree at Ithaca College (the “College”). Currently, the Award is used to provide scholarship awards to one or more staff members for the purchase of books or other educational materials and resources, and eligible recipients of the Award are limited to individuals who are both full-time staff members **and** matriculated students at the College, and who have completed sixty (60) credit hours or more with a grade point average of 3.00 or higher.

Since 1997, certain economic and social circumstances have emerged which make it difficult for full-time staff members of the College who are also pursuing a degree to matriculate. Instead, these staff members typically pursue their degree by enrolling in one or two courses at a time, as non-matriculated students. As a result, there are not enough eligible candidates for the Award each year, and the College is unable to award as many scholarships as it potentially could were the eligibility requirements modified, which in turn means that the purposes of the Award—to support the College’s staff in the continuation of their education—are not currently being fully realized.

However, under New York law, when restrictions on the use of certain institutional funds, such as the JJ Staff Scholar Award, become unlawful, impracticable, impossible to achieve, or wasteful, the institutions holding such funds can release these restrictions upon obtaining approval from a Court to do so and providing notice to the donors, provided the institution continues to use the property in a manner consistent with the purposes expressed in the original gift instrument.

The College is hereby providing notice to any available donors of the JJ Staff Scholar Award that it is seeking approval from a Court to modify the eligibility criteria in the Award to allow the College to award such scholarship funds to any full-time staff member taking a course or courses at the College, whether or not the individual is matriculated in a degree program. The proposed modification would release only the use restriction that limits the eligible recipients to matriculated students. The remaining restrictions as stated in the gift instrument would remain.

If you would like to be heard regarding this requested modification, you may send a letter to:

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Peggy Ryan Williams Center, 316
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or an email to: erockett@ithaca.edu.

Very truly yours,

Emily Rockett