



# IMUA 2016 Scholarship Program Student Guidelines

**Program Purposes:** To promote and recognize scholastic achievement and to demonstrate the advantages of, and the issues faced by, municipally-owned and operated utilities.

**Eligibility and Guidelines:** High school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are residential consumers of an IMUA member utility may submit written essays to win a \$500 scholarship.

(**Note:** IMUA scholarships **are not available** to the employees, staff or immediate family members of the IMUA, IMEA and IPEA, or to the immediate family members of the Board of Directors of these organizations, nor to immediate family members of those individuals who serve on the IMUA Scholarship Judging Panel and Committee.)

1. Students must complete the enclosed application and submit, along with a copy of their transcripts, an essay of 500 words or less, typewritten and double-spaced, with the following information included on the cover:
  - Student's first and last name, home address, phone number and e-mail address.
2. Essay should **NOT** mention the student's hometown or hometown utility by name.
3. Sources of information regarding municipal utilities and utility-related issues can be found in the reference section of your library, periodicals, the Internet or individuals employed by your local municipal utility. Search phrases might include: *municipal utility; local ownership; municipalization; public power; public gas system; utility deregulation; Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA); public interest; and, municipal utility rates*. There are many other sources as well. The following websites and sources may also be useful obtaining information helpful in writing your essay:
  - American Public Power Association ([www.publicpower.org](http://www.publicpower.org))
  - American Public Gas Association ([www.apga.org](http://www.apga.org))
  - Illinois Municipal Electric Agency ([www.imea.org](http://www.imea.org))
  - Illinois Municipal Utilities Association ([www.imea.org](http://www.imea.org), then click on the "IMUA link")
  - Illinois Public Energy Agency ([www.imea.org](http://www.imea.org), then click on the "IPEA link")
  - Energy Information Administration ([www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov))
  - Your local municipal utility superintendent
  - American Water Works Association (AWWA) ([www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org))
  - Illinois Rural Water Association (IRLWA) ([www.ilrwa](http://www.ilrwa))

4. Essays **MUST** address your choice of any one of the following three (3) issues/questions:

**Q. Electric**– Electric utilities (municipal utilities included) often struggle with three sometimes conflicting goals: 1) to provide reliable electric service to their customers; 2) to deliver power and energy in an efficient manner and at an affordable price; and, 3) to be environmentally responsible. Given that, should utilities weigh these goals against one another and prioritize them, and why or why not? If so, at what point should these goals be “re-prioritized,” and why? Does it make a difference if a utility is a non-profit, municipal system that is directly responsible to its citizens (local ratepayers) as opposed to a private sector company (eg., investor-owned utility) that’s responsible to its shareholders, and why or why not?

**Q. Water** – The presence of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (also known by the acronym “PPCPs”) as well as other substances in our nation’s water supplies are a growing concern which pose potential health risks to both consumers and to the environment. What can be done to help safeguard our water supplies (including drinking water) and at the same time, protect the health and safety of consumers and the environment? How should the cost of these initiatives be paid for, and by whom? What, if anything, is your municipality doing to address this concern? What are you doing individually in this regard?

**Q. Industry Workforce** – In light of an aging workforce, the public power industry faces a constant challenge to attract and retain qualified employees in a number of energy-related positions and occupations, including management, electric linemen, engineers and other such operations personnel. What can be done to help public power utilities attract and retain qualified employees to replace those employees who retire?

5. The deadline for submitting written essays is **Friday, March 11, 2016**. Please send your essay, transcripts and completed application to the address listed on the bottom of the application.
6. A total of **four (4) finalists** will be chosen by the IMUA Scholarship Committee. Each finalist will receive a finalist certificate and a \$500 award from IMUA. **Winners will be announced sometime in April.**

**GOOD LUCK!**

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EXCELLENCE IN UTILITY SERVICES.*

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