

**Messiah University**  
**The Ethel Brandt Bigham Endowed Education Award**

This highly competitive award will recognize a junior level elementary education major who has an outstanding service record, exemplary personal characteristics, extraordinary promise, and an interest in teaching in an urban or rural setting at the elementary level. **In the large majority of cases, this is an add-on award and will be added to, not substituted for, any financial aid the recipient already receives.**

One award of approximately \$1200 (award is based on market performance) annually will be made to an exemplary student who plans to make teaching a career and who demonstrates the following traits:

- **Grades PK-4 or grades 4-8 majors.**
- **Applicant must demonstrate intent to teach in a rural or urban setting.**
- **Applicant must demonstrate exemplary personal characteristics.**
- **Junior level status at time of application.**
- **Award to be disbursed during the applicant's senior year.**
- **Special consideration will be given to a qualified student who has volunteered/worked in a rural or urban educational setting during the university years.**

**The Application Packet Must Include:**

1. Application Form
2. Resume
3. Essay

*Completed applications should be emailed to [teacheredprog@messiah.edu](mailto:teacheredprog@messiah.edu)  
by noon on the last Thursday of February.*

**Eligibility Requirements of Applicants**

**A. Academic Performance**

- Minimum of 3.6 cumulative GPA.
- Admitted into the Teacher Education Program.
- Minimum of 45 credits completed at Messiah University.
- Junior level status at the time of application.

**B. Professional Intentions**

Compose a two to three page essay explaining your motivation to teach in an urban or rural setting, describing the qualities urban or rural teachers need for success, and illustrating how you are preparing yourself for this vocation. The winner will read excerpts from the essay at a public awards ceremony.

*\*\*AI policy for scholarship essay: Limited Use of AI  
Students may utilize artificial intelligence tools as a review of their work only. This means the student creates all content and may only use AI-tools to suggest improvements or corrections in spelling, grammar, phrasing, and mechanics.*

**C. Service and Leadership as Evidenced in Resume**

- Evidence of participation in community involvement activities, university related activities, leadership roles, and voluntary service activities.
- Evidence of desire to teach in an urban setting or evidence of desire to teach in a rural setting.

**Application Process for Award**

1. Announcement of the scholarship will be made annually to the faculty and student.
2. Complete applications are to be submitted to the Teacher Education Program Assistant in Boyer 410 (see email address above), who will forward all applications to the Chair of the Awards Sub-committee. Applications must be received by noon of the last Thursday in February.
3. Applications will be screened and evaluated by the Sub-committee.
4. Written verification of the award will be completed by no later than May 1.
5. In the unlikely event that no student meets the qualifications for this award, no award will be given that year.

**Retention of the Ethel Brandt Bigham Endowed Education Award**

If at any time a recipient falls below the award standards, the case will be referred to the Teacher Education Committee for possible withdrawal of the award.

**The Ethel Brandt Bigham Endowed Education Award  
Application**

Name:	Last	First	Middle Initial	Date

Current Address:	Street	City	State, Zip

Permanent Address:	Street	City	State, Zip

Phone Number	Email Address

Messiah Certification Program	
Certification Program (only for dual certs)	
Minor	
Concentration	

Other materials required for application:

1. Resume
2. Essay

☐ I acknowledge that checking this box electronically serves the same purpose as affixing my original signature to this document.

Application packets should be emailed to [teacheredprog@messiah.edu](mailto:teacheredprog@messiah.edu) by noon the last Thursday in February. Questions about the scholarship application can be sent to the same email address.