Application

The Morton Bahr
Online Learning Scholarship

- Honors the commitment to educational opportunity and the farseeing vision of Morton Bahr, president emeritus of the Communications Workers of America;
- Enhances educational access for union members and other workers through online learning;
- Reaches out to new and underserved audiences, including minorities and women, via online learning; and
- Provides workers with the requisite skills to use technology effectively in college studies, in the workplace and in lifelong learning.

Completed applications due
June 3, 2016
The Morton Bahr Online Learning Scholarship was created in the name of SUNY Empire State College alumnus Morton Bahr to assist workers in furthering their educational goals through online learning. Bahr Scholarships are available to workers registering for undergraduate degree studies at Empire State College.

Morton Bahr

A commitment to lifelong learning requires a change in lifestyle and values. Instead of going out for a beer with your coworkers at the end of the shift, you might have to go to the library. Education has to become a major part of your life, almost on a par with work and family. While the sacrifice can be great, the rewards are much greater. Taking advantage of educational opportunities will likely lead to a higher income, greater employment security and higher levels of job satisfaction. But the lifelong learner is also more active, better rounded and, there is growing evidence, a healthier individual.

- Morton Bahr, “From the Telegraph to the Internet,” 1998

Morton Bahr is recognized as one of the world’s most influential union leaders. He is the labor movement’s leading expert on technology and information-based industries and is president emeritus of the Communications Workers of America, a 700,000-member union for professional, technical and information-age workers.

Bahr is especially noted for groundbreaking leadership on worker education issues. As a vice president of the AFL-CIO, he chaired the federation’s Worker Education Committee. In 1996-98, he chaired the Commission for a Nation of Lifelong Learners, which completed a far-reaching, two-year study of adult learning. In 1999, President Bill Clinton appointed him to the 21st Century Workforce Commission, which released a landmark study on preparing U.S. workers for jobs in the information-technology industries. A model of lifelong learning in his professional and personal life, Morton Bahr graduated from The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies of Empire State College in 1983.

Online Learning at SUNY Empire State College

Empire State College, the State University of New York’s leader in online education, offers a nationwide program with more than 500 courses via distance learning. The college offers associate and bachelor’s degrees in 12 areas of study, with complete degrees available online. A pioneer in the field, Empire State College began offering studies via distance learning in 1979 and is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

The Application Process

All applications must be complete to be considered. Since the awards committee recognizes that lifelong learners may have periods when they attended school and were not successful, the committee does not ask for transcripts. The committee reviews your goals, the quality of your application essays and the quality of your nominations to differentiate between applicants. Nominations from union leaders, supervisors or those who have seen evidence of your work in community organizations are the best sources since the committee will be looking for evaluative feedback.
The Morton Bahr Scholarship Program
Application

Application due June 3, 2016

Please submit the completed application with the two required essays. Please give the nomination form below to two individuals who can provide an assessment of your potential for success in the program.

Name ___________________________________________ Student ID ________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________
Email ______________________________________ Phone ____________________________
Employer _______________________________________ Employer phone _______________
Job title __________________________________________ CWA Local No. (if member) _____

If not a CWA local member, are you a spouse, domestic partner or child of a CWA member?
Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please fill in the CWA member’s name and local number below:
Name ___________________________________________ CWA Local No. ______________
Are you a member of a different union? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, which union? ________________________________

Are you currently receiving tuition assistance from other sources? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, source(s) of funding ______________________________________________________
Amount of funding ________________________________

Applicant’s signature __________________________________________ Date ___________
The Morton Bahr Scholarship Program

Application Essays

There are two essays required.

The first essay should discuss your personal, career, and educational goals and accomplishments, and explain how a Bahr Scholarship will help you to accomplish your goals.

For the second essay, use one of the following quotes from the past president of the Communications Workers of America, Morton Bahr, as a platform for launching your own ideas or the ideas of others on a similar theme. In a one to two-page essay, create your response to these ideas. We will use this essay as a sample of your writing and communication skills.

Quote 1:

I believe we can seize upon the opportunities created by historic change and help bring about a resurgence of the American labor movement. Communications Workers of America is uniquely situated to take a leadership role in moving the labor movement into the 21st century and in making the American dream available again for workers. But we must first clearly articulate the new role of trade unions in a rapidly changing world and determine how unions can best serve the needs of workers in a global economy. (p. 20.)

Quote 2:

American labor unions have traditionally been deeply involved in their communities. The 40-hour workweek, overtime pay, employer-provided health care, and a variety of government programs from Social Security to health and safety regulations, unemployment insurance and workers compensation – all were fought for and won by organized labor. And they benefit working families, not just union members. We need to return to what made the labor movement great, advancing the cause of working America as a whole. (p. 23.)

Quote 3:

If America is going to succeed in the 21st century, we need to become a nation of lifelong learners. Today for the first time in our history, a majority of all new jobs require a post-secondary education. Tomorrow’s workers will be expected to have a command of reading, computing, and oral and written communication skills to qualify for many of the least skilled jobs. And, all future good jobs will demand continued learning and education … Employees who are involved in learning have a better attitude toward their company. Because of their employers’ commitment to their education, workers realize that they do not have to be anti-company in order to be good union members. They begin to understand that management and labor have the same goal – a profitable company. We need to change our basic culture to make lifelong learning a priority for everyone. Instead of thinking of school as a gas station where you stop once, get filled up and then go on, we need to think of education as the road itself. (pp. 197, 209.)


You can find additional information about Empire State College and online learning from our website at: www.esc.edu/Bahr.
Bahr Scholarship Nomination Form

Nominations must be received by June 3, 2016.

To be completed by applicant's supervisor, community leader or union official (non-relatives)

Name of applicant ________________________________________________________________

How long have you known the applicant? ______________________________________________

In what capacity? ________________________________________________________________

Please indicate in the space provided below your assessment of the applicant’s aptitude for study as a Bahr Scholar. This scale is a supplement to your narrative comments and need not be used if you are uncomfortable with its format.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic/Professional performance</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Not able to judge</th>
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Please indicate your thoughts on how a Bahr Scholarship will help the applicant to meet his/her personal, professional and academic goals. Use additional pages as needed.

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________________

Print Name ____________________________________________________________

Signature ____________________________________________________________ Official Position __________

Address ________________________________________________________________

Phone ___________________________________________________________________ Date __________

Please return completed recommendation form to: Bahr Scholarship Committee, c/o Office of Advancement, SUNY Empire State College, 28 Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Bahr Scholarship Nomination Form

Nominations must be received by June 3, 2016.

*To be completed by applicant's supervisor, community leader or union official (non-relatives)*

Name of applicant ____________________________________________

How long have you known the applicant? ____________________________________________

In what capacity? ____________________________________________

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Please indicate in the space provided below your assessment of the applicant’s aptitude for study as a Bahr Scholar. This scale is a supplement to your narrative comments and need not be used if you are uncomfortable with its format.

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Print Name ____________________________________________________

Signature ____________________________ Official Position __________

Address ______________________________________________________

Phone __________________ Date __________________

*Please return completed recommendation form to: Bahr Scholarship Committee, c/o Office of Advancement, SUNY Empire State College, 28 Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866*
Bahr Scholarship Application Checklist

- Application Form
- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Recommendation 1
- Recommendation 2
- FAFSA submitted

Please return completed applications to:

SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

Attn: Bahr Scholarship Committee
Office of Advancement
28 Union Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

For questions, contact:
800-847-3000 ext. 2769 or Stephanie.Lamphere@esc.edu