Dear Incoming Freshman/Transfer Student:

Thank you for your request for information on the 2009-2010 University Scholar/Academic Finalist Awards at Northern Illinois University. Enclosed you will find all necessary application materials to apply for the following awards: University Scholar for Freshmen and Transfer students, Academic Finalist for Freshmen and Transfer students, Faculty Merit and Faculty Fund for Freshmen, and Phi Theta Kappa for Transfer students. You need only submit one application in order to apply for all of the aforementioned awards. These awards are not automatic upon admittance to Northern Illinois University. You must apply in order to be considered. Due to the competitive nature of this process, we are unable to extend offers to all applicants who meet and/or exceed our recommended criteria.

For incoming freshmen students it is highly recommended that applicants have a composite ACT score of 27 or higher and rank in the top five percent of their graduating class. Applications from students with an ACT of less than 26 or a class ranking below the top 25% will not be considered (if your high school does not rank students, be certain to have your counselor notate this on the certification section. We will still consider your application). Applicants must possess outstanding academic ability as demonstrated by recognition at the state, regional, or national level and must have involvement in curricular and extra-curricular activities in their school or community. Applicants should be of a high moral and personal character.

The following criteria must be met for you to be considered for these awards so please review the following carefully:

1. Submission of an application. Your guidance counselor or principal must complete the “Certification” section.

2. Submission of a personal letter in which you may: outline your educational and career goals, why you think you deserve to receive this scholarship, or highlight some of your extra- and co-curricular activities in which you are involved.

3. Submission of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, preferably from the area in which you intend to major, who knows your abilities. This letter should be on institutional letterhead and be submitted in a sealed envelope, signed by your teacher. Additional letters of recommendation will not be considered.

4. Admission to Northern Illinois University by February 1, 2009. However, you do not need to be admitted in order to start the application process. We encourage you to submit your application well in advance of the February 1st deadline, even if you have not yet received an admittance letter. If you have received your admittance letter prior to applying for the scholarship, please enclose a copy of it with your application materials. If you do not have your acceptance letter, we will verify your admission status internally, through NIU’s Office of Records and Registration, as of February 1, 2009.

For incoming transfer students candidates should have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and must have completed at least 45 semester hours (or 67.5 quarter hours) of college credit by February 1, 2009. Applicants must possess outstanding academic ability as demonstrated by recognition at the state, regional, or national level and must have involvement in curricular and extra-curricular activities in their school or community. Applicants should be of a high moral and personal character.

The following materials must be submitted:

1. Application with the “Certification” section filled out by your institution’s Office of Registration and Records.

2. Submission of a personal letter in which you may: outline your educational and career goals, why you think you deserve to receive this scholarship, or highlight some of your extra- and co-curricular activities in which you are involved.

3. Submission of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, preferably from the area in which you intend to major, who knows your abilities. This letter should be on institutional letterhead and be submitted in a sealed envelope, signed by your teacher. Additional letters of recommendation will not be considered.

4. Admission to Northern Illinois University by February 1, 2009. However, you do not need to be admitted in order to start the application process. We encourage you to submit your application well in advance of the February 1st
deadline even if you have not yet received an admittance letter. If you have received your admittance letter prior to applying for the scholarship, please enclose a copy of it with your application materials. If you do not have your acceptance letter, we will verify your admission status internally, through NIU’s Office of Records and Registration, as of February 1, 2009.

Please note that the deadline for submitting this scholarship application is February 1, 2009 for both freshmen and transfer students.

Both Illinois and out-of-state residents are encouraged to apply.

We strongly recommend that all application materials be submitted at the same time.

Please do not staple materials together.

Do not use double sided copies.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that ALL materials are submitted to the Northern Illinois University Scholarships Committee with a postmark/fax time stamp dated no later than February 1, 2009. The postmark deadlines of February 1st will be strictly enforced. Do NOT fax materials if you can meet the February 1st deadline at your local post office.

You may also wish to contact the NIU Office of Admissions (815-753-8301) to obtain applications for the Centennial Scholarship and the Alumni High School Merit Scholarship. If you are interested in obtaining an application for the Presidential Scholarship contact the NIU Office of Scholarship Coordination (815-753-4829). The deadline for these scholarships is February 1, 2009. We hope you will consider attending NIU and applying for these scholarships. Good luck in your future studies.

Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, handicap, status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran, or any other factor unrelated to professional qualifications, in employment or in admission or access to, treatment in, or operation of its educational programs and activities. Such discrimination is prohibited by Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Acts of 1974 and 1975, the Vietnam-Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, and other federal and state statutes and regulations. Inquiries concerning application of Title IX, Section 504, and other statutes and regulations may be referred to the affirmative action director, Lowden Hall 302, telephone (815) 753-1118, or to the director of the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20024. The Constitution and Bylaws of Northern Illinois University afford equal treatment regardless of political views or affiliation, sexual orientation, or other factors unrelated to scholarly or professional performance (Constitution Article 9, Section 9.2; Bylaws Article 5, Section 5.211; Bylaws Article 7, Section 7.25 and Section 7.252; Bylaws Article 10; and Bylaws Article 18).

Interested Applicants can obtain forms from our website: www.scholarships.niu.edu or call 815-753-4829

University Scholarships Committee, Attn Secretary
Office of Scholarship Coordination / Scholarship Services
245K Swen Parson Hall
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
The University Scholar Awards
and Academic Finalist Scholarships for Freshmen Students

Northern Illinois University is continuing its scholarship program for outstanding high school students. The recipients of these awards are known as University Scholars and Academic Finalists. The University Scholarships Committee is interested in recruiting only students of the highest caliber for these scholarships.

University Scholar Award
1. University Scholar Awards will receive up to $4000 to be applied towards tuition (can not exceed the cost of tuition). The University Scholar award also provides on-campus room and board, some fees, and a $200 stipend for books.
2. This scholarship may be used for any recognized field of concentration offered by the university.
3. These awards are for a four-year period subject to the recipient retaining undergraduate status and maintaining a 3.3/4.0 grade point average at Northern Illinois University.

Faculty Fund Academic Finalist Scholarship
1. Faculty Fund Academic Finalist Scholarships award $1250 per year and will receive up to $4000 to be applied towards tuition (can not exceed the cost of tuition), fees are not included.
2. This scholarship may be used for any recognized field of concentration offered by the university.
3. These awards are for a four-year period subject to the recipient retaining undergraduate status and maintaining a 3.0/4.0 grade point average at Northern Illinois University.

Academic Finalist Scholarships
1. Academic Finalist Scholarships award $300 per year and will receive up to $4000 to be applied towards tuition (can not exceed the cost of tuition), fees are not included.
2. This scholarship may be used for any recognized field of concentration offered by the university.
3. These awards are for a four-year period subject to the recipient retaining undergraduate status and maintaining a 3.0/4.0 grade point average at Northern Illinois University.

Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships
1. Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships award $1000 per year.
2. This scholarship may be used for any recognized field of concentration offered by the university.
3. These awards are for a one-year period subject to the recipient maintaining undergraduate status and a 3.0/4.0 grade point average at Northern Illinois University. If funds are available, the scholarship may be renewed for a second year.
4. You must be a member of Phi Theta Kappa in order to be considered for this award.

All applications must be postmarked/faxed (with date stamp) by February 1, 2009.

The University Scholar Awards/Academic Finalist and Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships
for Transfer Students

Northern Illinois University is continuing its scholarship program for outstanding transfer students. The recipients of these awards are known as University Scholars and Academic Finalists. The University Scholarships Committee is interested in recruiting only students of the highest caliber for these scholarships.

University Scholar Award
1. University Scholar Awards will receive up to $4000 to be applied towards tuition (can not exceed the cost of tuition). The University Scholar award also provides on-campus room and board, some fees, and a $200 stipend for books.
2. This scholarship may be used for any recognized field of concentration offered by the university.
3. These awards are for a two-year period subject to the recipient retaining undergraduate status and maintaining a 3.3/4.0 grade point average at Northern Illinois University.

Academic Finalist Scholarships
1. Academic Finalist Scholarships award $300 per year and will receive up to $4000 to be applied towards tuition (can not exceed the cost of tuition), fees are not included.
2. This scholarship may be used for any recognized field of concentration offered by the university.
3. These awards are for a two-year period subject to the recipient retaining undergraduate status and maintaining a 3.0/4.0 grade point average at Northern Illinois University.

Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships
1. Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships award $1000 per year.
2. This scholarship may be used for any recognized field of concentration offered by the university.
3. These awards are for a one-year period subject to the recipient maintaining undergraduate status and a 3.0/4.0 grade point average at Northern Illinois University. If funds are available, the scholarship may be renewed for a second year.
4. You must be a member of Phi Theta Kappa in order to be considered for this award.

All applications must be postmarked/ faxed (with time/date stamp) by February 1, 2009.
APPLICATION FOR UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR AND ACADEMIC FINALIST SCHOLARSHIPS

NAME ____________________________________________________________________________________________________
(Last)      (First)     (Middle)    (z_ID)
your NIU assigned z-ID #

INCOMING FRESHMEN □ INCOMING TRANSFER STUDENT □

NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN __________________________________________________________________________
(Last)      (First)    (Middle)

HOME ADDRESS __________________________________________________________________________________________
(Street)    (City)  (State)  (Zip)  (Telephone No.)

HIGH SCHOOL /COLLEGE ___________________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS _______________________________________________________________________________________

DATE OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION (if applicable) ________________________________

FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN
Certification by High School Counselor: I certify that the information provided is correct at this time. Our records indicate the following:

_________________________ of __________________________ Minimum required ACT score of 26 or SAT of 1140
Rank                          Class Size                     ACT Composite Score/SAT V+M
_________________________ GPA (Please specify if 4 or 5 point scale)

If your high school does not rank students, please note this and be certain to include the student’s current GPA and your scale (e.g. 3.9/4.0). Please also indicate if the GPA is weighted.

Signature and Title of Certifying Officer         Name of High School/College      Date

FOR INCOMING TRANSFER STUDENTS
Certification by Your College’s Office of Registration and Records:
I certify that the information provided is correct at this time. Our records indicate the following:

Semester or Quarter Hours completed as of 02/01/09 * Cumulative G.P.A.
Minimum required is 45 or 67.5 quarter hours completed at the time of application.
Please indicate whether the hours listed are semester hours or quarter hours

* Hours that the student is currently enrolled in do not count towards this amount.

Signature and Title of Certifying Officer         Name of College      Date
REFERENCE: List below the name of a teacher whom you will request to furnish a letter of reference, preferably one who knows you well and should be a teacher of the subject of greatest interest.

(Teacher's Name)      (Position)

EDUCATIONAL PLANS: Proposed occupation or profession

Expected departmental major at NIU

Indicate special activities, honors, and awards you have received at the county, regional, state, or national level—e.g., state science fair winner, national debate, regional art shows, etc.

CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

FOR FRESHMEN APPLICANTS: list the activities and organizations in which you participated, describing contributions or special roles.

FOR TRANSFER APPLICANTS: List the recent activities and organizations in which you participated since high school, describing contributions or special roles

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ACTIVITY - MUSIC, ART, THEATER

Please indicate if you are ALSO pursuing an “Athletic Scholarship” from NIU for the 2009 – 2010 school year

_____ Yes  _____ No

Per NCAA regulations if you are pursuing an athletic scholarship in addition to an academic scholarship, your involvement in athletics will NOT be considered for the academic scholarship.

ACTIVITY - ATHLETICS

ACTIVITY-WORK

HOBBIES & SPECIAL INTERESTS:

(If this form does not provide sufficient space, use another sheet of paper following this format and attach it to this form).

Students will be contacted regarding their status via letter in late February/early March.

DATE:__________________________  SIGNATURE:____________________________________________________

All application materials must meet the FEBRUARY 1, 2009.

RETURN FORM TO  OUR MAILING ADDRESS:

University Scholarships Committee
Office of Scholarship Coordination/Scholarship Services
245K Swen Parson Hall
DeKalb, IL 60115
PH (815) 753-4829
FAX (815) 753-4145