
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 May 15, 2015
800-847-3000, ext. 2492



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. Each scholar will begin his or her experience with an entry study in a specially designed online environment. Scholars will be supported through MyESC, an online student services center, and will be linked together through the Bahr Scholars Roundtable, an online community of participants.

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.

Morton Bahr 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 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, including study over the Web.

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 May 15, 2015

Please submit the completed application with the two required essays. Please give a nomination form, **along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope**, to **two** individuals who can provide an assessment of your potential for success in the program.

Name _____ S.S. No. _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Phone _____

Email _____

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? _____

Do you have access to a computer? Yes _____ No _____

Are you currently eligible for, or 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 Application Essay

There are two essays required. The first essay is an application essay which 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 short essay. 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 to predict your ability to be successful in college.

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.)

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.)

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.)

Bahr, Morton. (1998). "From the Telegraph to the Internet." Washington D.C.: National Press Books, Inc.

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

Please return the application form with essays to: Amanda Mickel, Center for Distance Learning, SUNY Empire State College, 113 West Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-6079.

Nomination

Important: Nominations must be received by May 15, 2015.

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

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.

Academic/Professional Performance	Poor	Fair	Average	Above Average	Outstanding	Not Able to Judge
Motivation for college study						
Ability to work independently						
Competence in written communication skills						
Oral communication skills						
Computer skills						
Leadership potential						
Community contributions						

Please indicate in the space provided below 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.* Please include your name and phone number as indicated below.

 Print name

 Signature

 Official position

 Address

 Phone

 Date

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Center for Distance Learning

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