

**D. COLE PHELPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**2026 HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
**Supporting students from Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties**

**A MESSAGE FROM D. COLE PHELPS**

Dear High School Senior,

I want to begin by saying something honest: I never imagined that I would become a lawyer.

I grew up right here in rural Eastern North Carolina and attended Washington County Schools. Like many students from small communities, I did not have everything figured out. What I did have was a public education and people who believed in me and encouraged me to keep moving forward. Education opened doors in my life that once seemed out of reach. Because of that, I created this scholarship foundation to help create opportunities for the next generation of students from communities like ours.

This scholarship is not just about grades. We are looking for students who demonstrate character, perseverance, work ethic, leadership, and a desire to make a positive difference in their communities.

If you are willing to work hard, believe in yourself, and give back to others along the way, this scholarship is for you. My hope is that the opportunities created through education will inspire you to invest in others and strengthen the communities that helped shape you.

I look forward to learning your story.

— D. Cole Phelps  
Founder, D. Cole Phelps Scholarship Foundation

**ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP**

The D. Cole Phelps Scholarship Foundation, Inc., is proud to announce the 2026 High School Senior Scholarship Program. For the 2026 academic year, the Foundation will award fifteen (15) scholarships of \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors who reside in Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, or Washington Counties and who plan to enroll in a two-year or four-year college or accredited post-secondary program in Fall 2026.

Since its creation in 2014, the Foundation has awarded over \$60,000 in scholarships to local students pursuing higher education. Recipients are selected through a holistic review process that considers academic achievement, leadership, community service, work ethic, character, and perseverance. You do not need perfect grades to apply. We are looking for students who demonstrate determination, integrity, and a commitment to improving their communities.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must submit a completed scholarship application along with a current high school transcript. Applications that are incomplete or submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Students are encouraged to carefully review their application before submitting it to ensure that all sections have been completed.

## **APPLICATION TIMELINE**

The 2026 scholarship application period opens on **March 9, 2026**, and all completed applications must be submitted no later than **April 10, 2026, at 5:00 PM**. Applications may be mailed or delivered in person to the following address:

The D. Cole Phelps Scholarship Foundation, Inc.  
Attn: Scholarship Committee  
106 East Water Street  
Plymouth, North Carolina 27962

Finalists will be notified prior to their high school graduation ceremony. Students with questions about the application process may contact our office at (252) 791-1111.

**SECTION I: STUDENT INFORMATION**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

High School Currently Attending \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian's Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION II: ACTIVITIES AND LEADERSHIP**

Many students participate in school, church, athletic, or community activities that help shape who they are. Please describe the activities, teams, clubs, or organizations that have been most meaningful to you during high school. Tell us what your role was and what you learned from these experiences. You may include school activities, sports, church involvement, leadership roles, or other experiences that helped you grow.

Response:

### **SECTION III: COMMUNITY SERVICE AND GIVING BACK**

Strong communities are built by people who care about helping others. Tell us about ways you have served or helped others in your community. This could include volunteer work, helping neighbors or family members, church activities, mentoring younger students, or other acts of service. Please explain what you did, why it was meaningful to you, and what you learned from the experience.

Response:

### **SECTION IV: WORK EXPERIENCE**

Many students balance school with part-time jobs or other responsibilities. Please describe any jobs you have held during high school, including where you worked, your responsibilities, approximately how many hours you worked, and what the experience taught you about responsibility or work ethic. If you have not held a formal job, you may instead describe other responsibilities such as helping with a family business, farm work, childcare, or other commitments that required responsibility and dedication.

Response:

### **SECTION V: AWARDS, HONORS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Please describe any awards, recognitions, or accomplishments you are proud of during your high school years. These may include academic honors, athletic recognition, leadership awards, community recognitions, church or service awards, or other achievements that were meaningful to you. Rather than listing every award, focus on the accomplishments that were most meaningful to you and explain why they mattered.

Response:

## **SECTION VI: ACADEMIC PLANS AND FUTURE GOALS**

Public education opened doors in Attorney Phelps' life that once seemed out of reach. Please tell us about your plans after high school, including the college, university, or post-secondary program you hope to attend and the field of study or career path you are interested in pursuing. In your response, explain why this path is meaningful to you and how you hope to use your education to positively impact others and strengthen the community where you come from.

Response:

## **SECTION VII: PERSONAL QUESTIONS**

Grades and activities only tell part of a student's story. Please answer the following questions thoughtfully. Each response should be approximately 100–200 words. There are no right or wrong answers. We are interested in learning about your experiences, perspectives, and hopes for the future.

**1.** Attorney Phelps grew up in rural Eastern North Carolina and attended Washington County Schools. How has growing up in your community influenced the person you are today? Explain why that lesson matters and how it has influenced the way you approach challenges and treat others. *(Please respond in approximately 100–200 words.)*

Response:

**2.** Strong communities depend on people who are willing to recognize challenges and work toward solutions. If you could improve one thing about your county or community, what would it be and why? What role do you believe education or future leaders like yourself can play in addressing that challenge? *(Please respond in approximately 100–200 words.)*

Response:

**3.** Describe a moment when you saw someone in your community facing a difficult situation. What did that experience teach you about empathy, responsibility, or the way we should treat others? *(Please respond in approximately 100–200 words.)*

Response:

**4.** Many students take on responsibilities that may never appear on a transcript or résumé. What is something you are proud of that most people may not know about you? This could include helping your family, working a job, supporting someone in need, overcoming a challenge, or another experience that helped shape your character. *(Please respond in approximately 100–200 words.)*

Response:

**CERTIFICATION**

My signature below certifies that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and that the work submitted is entirely my own.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_