

Barry P. Finn Memorial Scholarship

Barry Paul Finn was a long time resident of West Pittston and 1967 graduate of the first Wyoming Area High School class. He spent his entire life heavily involved in the local community through the West Pittston Little League and the Wyoming Area Football Parents Association. His family has set up this scholarship fund to provide support to WA students in their pursuit of higher education in science.



Barry developed an immense interest in weather in his youth while working as a security guard at the Avoca Airport. He would spend most of his time with the local weather bureau learning how to forecast weather. He decided to turn his hobby into a career while attending Penn State University by working part-time as the weekend weatherman at WNEP. After graduating from Penn State in 1980 he worked as a Meteorologist at WSEE in Erie, PA and then KSTP in Minneapolis, MN before returning to WNEP in 1986. He always found NEPA to have the most challenging weather, due to the surrounding Pocono Mountains and proximity to the Great Lakes. In 1992 he moved to WYOU as the chief meteorologist until he retired in 2001.

Barry was very passionate about the changing global climate and the effects on the planet. He was invited to the White House to attend the 1997 Global Climate Change Initiative and had the opportunity to hear from the nation's top meteorologists and meet with President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. This meeting sparked Barry's interest in global climate change, specifically the impact of human activity on our planet and what we can do to mitigate the existing and future climate issues. Even after his retirement, Barry took keen interest in keeping himself well informed about matters concerning climate control and researching technologies that can reverse the ill-effects of climate change such as, the global temperature rise, warming oceans, shrinking ice sheets, glacial retreat, sea level rise and his favorite, extreme weather events. In his honor, his family wishes to provide encouragement and opportunities to young students who are equally passionate about contributing towards this imperative need for climate control and mitigation efforts.



Applicants must be a graduating Wyoming Area senior who has been accepted as a full time student at a 4 year college/university to pursue a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Math) major. **Other majors will also be considered.** Preference will be given to those who demonstrate interest in pursuing degrees in environmental sciences related to global climate, broadly defined. Also to be considered are applicants planning to attend a community college, 2 year college, or as a part time student. Applicants from underrepresented groups in STEM are highly encouraged to apply.

CRITERIA: Applicants to this scholarship must be Wyoming Area graduating seniors who plan on attending a community college, a 2 or 4 year college/university. Course rigor, clear and concise essays, and potential for success in STEM will be considered.

Required: A letter of recommendation from a Wyoming Area STEM teacher addressing the applicant's potential for success. An additional letter of recommendation can be included if one is available.

Essays Required: Must be: typed, single space, Arial 11 pt, 0.5" margins and be of at least 500 words. Select **two (2) essays** from the following 3 prompts and indicate which prompt you chose in the first sentence of each essay.

1. Describe your background, interests, and career goals. Discuss your chosen school and describe the STEM program and opportunities for undergraduate research. How will this scholarship help you achieve your goals? If attending a community college, 2 year college, or as a part time student please clearly state your reason and describe your plan and timeline to complete a 4 year degree in STEM. (500 words min)
2. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem of personal importance you'd like to solve. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution. (500 words min)
3. Describe a current environmental issue that is impacting the world (e.g., pollution, climate change, fossil fuels, intensive farming). Discuss an idea that you have to address this environmental issue. How would you implement your idea in the real world? Discuss any challenges to implementation and how those challenges can be overcome, e.g., lack of current technologies. Remember, no idea is too small. Include a minimum of two (2) citations that you used to research and write this essay, e.g., website, magazine, library book. (500 words min)