**University of Phoenix: *Teaching It Forward* Scholarship**

*As the 2013 Georgia Teacher of the Year (GA TOTY), the University of Phoenix has given me a tremendous opportunity to “pay it forward” through the 2013 Teacher of the Year* Teaching It Forward *Scholarship. This scholarship allows me to grant full tuition and fees to an individual of my choice.*

*In my undergraduate degree, I was the recipient of a full-tuition scholarship, which allowed me to earn a degree in education. As a result, I have been in education for nine years, and I “pay it forward” by dedicating my life to helping my students to learn, grow, and achieve so that they will be able to succeed in the adult world.*

*Now, as GA TOTY, I have the opportunity to “teach it forward” by giving the gift of education beyond the four walls of my classroom at the Georgia Academy for the Blind. It is my dream that this scholarship will change the life of its recipient. It also is my dream that the change will not stop there, but rather that the recipient will use his/her education to “pay it forward” to others in his/her life. Please help make my dream a reality by applying today.*

*Best Wishes,*

*Lauren A. Eckman*

*2013 Georgia Teacher of the Year*

1. DEADLINE for scholarship applications is March 15, 2013, 4:00 p.m. (No exceptions.)

2. Refer to the criteria below for eligibility requirements. Refer to application below for a list of supporting documents needed (i.e. transcripts, etc.). Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.

3. The application must be typed and legible.

4. You will be notified in April regarding the status of your application.

5. If you have any questions about the application process, please email Lauren Eckman at: leckman@doe.k12.ga.us

**Purpose**: University of Phoenix provided all 2013 State Teachers of the Year with the opportunity to “teach it forward” by nominating someone in their community for a full-tuition scholarship to the University of Phoenix.

**Award Components**: The scholarship covers full tuition and fees toward the completion of a degree at University of Phoenix. Educational supplies and living expenses are NOT included. To discover the degree types and fields offered in your area, please contact the University at scholarships@phoenix.edu.

**Award Criteria**:

1. Applicant must be an alumnus of the Georgia Academy for the Blind or a graduating member of the Class of 2013.

2. Applicant must have (or earn by the end of the 2012-2013 school year, if a member of the Class of 2013) a high school diploma from the Georgia Academy for the Blind.

3. Applicant must be a United States citizen or have a valid visa.

4. Applicant must meet the admission requirements for the degree he/she is seeking at University of Phoenix. (Please visit their website or contact the University to find the requirements.)

5. Applicant CANNOT be a current student at University of Phoenix or currently enrolled in any degree program at another post-secondary institution.

6. Applicant CANNOT have been expelled from GAB or any college/university.

7. Applicant must have access to a computer with Internet access and any needed assistive technology.

**Application Process**:

Applicant must submit the following items:

1. Completed application form (typed and signed)

2. Personal Essay

3. Official transcripts from the Georgia Academy for the Blind and any institution of higher learning attended since graduation from high school.

**Deadline**for the application is Friday, March 15, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. All applications must be received by Scott Dekowski by the deadline. Applications can be emailed (you may scan the signature page) to scottdekowski@gdol.ga.gov or they can be mailed to:

Georgia Academy for the Blind

Atten: Scott Dekowski

2895 Vineville Ave.

Macon, GA 31204

***Teaching It Forward* Scholarship Application**

1. Name:

2. Address:

3. Telephone Number:

4. Date of Birth:

5. Year of Graduation from GAB:

6. What degree level and degree field do you plan to complete at University of Phoenix?

7. List your academic honors, awards, and membership activities at GAB and any colleges/universities you have attended:

8. List your community service activities and extracurricular activities:

9. Provide a brief description of your proficiency in using a computer to access the Internet, conduct research, and complete assignments:

10. Personal Essay: Please answer the following question in a 5-paragraph essay. *How will you use the* Teaching It Forward *Scholarship to “pay it forward” to others in your life?*

**Statement of Accuracy**

I hereby affirm that all of the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also affirm that I possess the necessary technology to complete the degree program. Furthermore, I affirm that I have not been expelled from the Georgia Academy for the Blind or any college/university.

I also consent that my picture may be taken and used for any purpose deemed necessary to promote the *Teaching It Forward* scholarship program.

I hereby understand that if chosen as the scholarship winner, I must work in conjunction with University of Phoenix to register and enroll.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_