**Microsoft Announces Scholarship for Students with Disabilities**

Redmond, WA -- Microsoft is pleased to announce the launch of the [Microsoft DisAbility Scholarship](http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/programs/microsoftdisabilityscholarship.aspx) intended to empower and enable high school students with disabilities to (a) go to college, (b) realize the impact technology has on the world, and (c) target a career in the technology industry.

The scholarship launched Friday, January 17, 2014 and includes a goal to increase enrollment of persons living with a disability in higher education and, in the long term, decrease the unemployment bias for disabled persons.

This new program was started by, and is supported by, Microsoft employees who will select promising high school seniors who require financial assistance in order to enter and successfully complete a vocational or academic college program. This non-renewable $5000 scholarship will be paid to the recipient’s Financial Aid Office by the Seattle Foundation on behalf of the DisAbility Employee Resource Group (ERG) at Microsoft.

**Eligibility**

All candidates must be high school students [living with a disability](http://www.who.int/topics/disabilities/en/) who plan to attend a 2 to 4 year University or College program, maintain a cumulative 3.0 CPA or equivalent and have declared a major from the approved list (see scholarship guidelines on application).

# Requirements

To apply for the Microsoft DisAbility Scholarship, the student must meet the following guidelines:

1. Be a current high school senior with living with a disability (as defined by [WHO](http://www.who.int/topics/disabilities/en/)), whether that be visual, hearing, mobility, cognitive or speech.
2. Plan to attend an undergraduate program in a 2 or 4-year University/College or Technical College in the fall of the academic year following high-school graduation.  Schools must be in the USA or have a USA-Affiliate for financial transactions (contact Seattle Foundation to verify non-USA school’s eligibility).
3. Declare a major in **engineering**, **computer science**, **computer information systems**, **legal** or in **business** that are approved (i.e. paralegal, pre-law, finance, business administration, or marketing).
4. Demonstrate a passion for technology.
5. Demonstrate leadership at school and/or in the community.
6. Have a high school cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
7. Require financial assistance to attend college.
8. Enrollment status must be full-time or half time.

###

Contact:

DisAbility Employee Resource Group
Microsoft Corporation
<http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/programs/microsoftdisabilityscholarship.aspx>

Email: Disability Scholarship Fund

Seattle Foundation

Travis Petersen

Philanthropic Services Associate

Scholarship Manager

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Seattle Foundation**

scholarships@seattlefoundation.com

1200 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1300

Seattle WA 98101-3151

(206) 515-2139 direct

(206) 622-7673 fax

###