



Sign Language Interpreter Training Program The Dr. Judy Barnes Honorary Scholarship

Tyler Junior College's Sign Language Interpreter Training Program has a rich history rooted in the passion and dedication of pioneers like Frankie Widner and D.J. Sorenson. Their vision, combined with the leadership of Dr. Judy Barnes, laid the foundation for a program that trains students to become exceptional interpreters.

Today, the program continues to thrive, adapting to the evolving needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HH) community and leveraging the latest strategies and technologies to enhance learning experiences. Our graduates are sought-after professionals who make a significant impact on the lives of others.

The Dr. Judy Barnes Honorary Scholarship honors her legacy by supporting talented students who demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence and a passion for the field of interpreting. This scholarship provides financial assistance to help students overcome obstacles and achieve their full potential. By investing in our students, we are investing in the future of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

One scholarship will be awarded to a second-year student by the Tyler Junior College Sign Language Interpreter Training Program (TJC SLIP). The awarded amount will be either \$250, \$500, or \$750, as funds allow.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be in or beginning their sophomore year in the Tyler Junior College Sign Language Interpreting Program (TJC SLIP) with a declared major in Sign Language Interpreting.
- Must have a minimum overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0.
- Must be qualified to enroll in the next semester's sequence courses for TJC SLIP.
- Must have passed the TJC SLIP Mid-Program Exam on the first attempt with a score of 70% or higher.
- Must have already passed or provide proof of application to take the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters Test of English Proficiency (BEI TEP).
- Must demonstrate exemplary character and commitment to ethical standards.



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REQUIREMENTS**

Applicant packet must include:

- **Official college transcripts** from all institutions attended.
- **Two letters of recommendation** from individuals outside the TJC SLIP. At least one letter must be from a person who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing (HH) and may be submitted in video format.
- **A 5–7-minute video** demonstrating your American Sign Language skills. The video should address the following:
 - Why have you chosen this field?
 - Your professional goals. How will this scholarship assist you in fulfilling these goals?
 - Your involvement in the interpreting and Deaf/HH community.
 - How you plan to give back to the interpreting and Deaf/HH community.
- **Adherence to the department's video recording and attire policies** is required for video.
- The **video must be uploaded** to your professional YouTube account, saved as unlisted, and sent to the department chair via email: ASL@tjc.edu
- The subject line must include: your name, A#, and "Scholarship Video" and/or "Deaf Community Character Recommendation Video."
- Scholarship packet of information can be hand delivered to the Department Chair by appointment, emailed to: ASL@tjc.edu or by mail to: TJC SLIP Department Chair, PO Box 9020 Tyler Texas 75711.

Selection Committee and Process for the Scholarship

A dedicated scholarship selection committee will be formed to evaluate each applicant's submission using a customized rubric. This committee will consist of a variation of:

- Faculty members from the Sign Language Interpreter Training Program.
- Qualified representatives from the Deaf community.
- Qualified administrative staff from TJC SLIP.



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Selection Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Academic Performance:** Includes GPA, course completions, and academic achievements.
- **Demonstrated Commitment:** Involvement in interpreting-related activities, volunteer work, and participation in the Deaf/HH community.
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Support from faculty, interpreters, or other professionals who can attest to the applicant's character, abilities, and potential.
- **Application Review:** The committee will review all completed applications to ensure eligibility and consider overall qualifications.
- **Signing Skills:** Evaluation of signing skills at the appropriate level.
- **Final Selection:** The committee will select the scholarship recipient(s) based on the highest combined objective scores and a holistic subjective assessment.

Notification

If Selected:

- Applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decision by July 1st.
- The TJC scholarship department will send a recommendation form to you by mail. Applicants must accept the funds, which will then be transferred to the appropriate account.
- Scholarship winners must agree to have their photo taken for recognition and/or publicity purposes.

Application due by: May 1st for a Fall Semester or December 1st for a Spring Semester

[Tyler Junior College-Sign Language Interpreter Program](#)



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College Scholarship Application Form

Personal Information

- **Full Name:** _____
- **Tyler Junior College A Number** _____
- **Address:**
 - **Street:** _____
 - **City:** _____
 - **State:** _____
 - **ZIP Code:** _____
- **Phone Number:** _____
- **Email Address:** _____

Honors and Awards

List any academic honors, scholarships, or awards you have received:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I hereby certify that all the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: _____