



Sue Vandeloecht Memorial Scholarship

In honor of Sue Vandeloecht, a longtime AECU board member and educator, AECU will award the \$1,000 Sue Vandeloecht Memorial Scholarship. As a teacher with Columbia Public Schools, Sue taught at Smithton Middle School from its opening in 1995 until her retirement in 2022. She valued education, and one of her greatest joys was seeing her students learn, grow and succeed.

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be a graduating senior in the 2025-2026 academic school year.
2. Applicants must plan to be enrolled in a college, university or other post-secondary educational institution within the U.S. on a full-time basis during the 2026-2027 school year.
3. Applicants must have been a student at Smithton Middle School.

Selection criteria

The scholarship committee is made up of AECU staff and board members. Applicants will be evaluated by the scholarship committee based on the following criteria:

- **Written expression.** Submit an original essay on the topic listed below.
- **School involvement.** List all school activities, groups in which you have been involved, if applicable, and be sure to list any leadership positions held.
- **Community involvement.** List all community activities you have been involved in and leadership positions.
- **Work history.** Include any part-time work and/or volunteerism.
- **Character.** Include a letter of reference.

Scholarship essay

Applicants will be required to write a 500-word essay on the following topic: **An important moment in my education journey.**

Letter of reference

One letter of reference from any one of the following sources is required: Employer, Teacher, Coach, Counselor or Clergy.

The letter should include the name and daytime phone number of the person providing the reference, as well as this person's relationship with the applicant. This letter may cite examples of the applicant's character, workplace or school accomplishments or any information describing why the applicant is a worthy candidate.

How to apply

1. Complete and sign the application.
2. Write the essay.
3. Obtain a letter of reference.
4. Submit all items to our office.
 - a. By mail or in person at:
Academic Employees Credit Union
Attn.: Scholarship committee
2804 W. Ash St.
Columbia, MO 65203
 - b. Or by email at msr@academicecu.com. Please reference 'Scholarship' in the Subject line.

All items must be submitted to our office by April 15, 2026.

Applications will not receive consideration if incomplete, if documentation is missing or if documentation arrives in separate mailings. Handwritten essays and reference letters will not be considered. The scholarship winner will be notified on or before May 1, 2026. Nonwinners will not be notified.

If you have questions, please contact the scholarship committee at msr@academicecu.com or 573-445-1845.

Scholarship application



Student name		
Home address		
City	State	ZIP
Phone #	Birth date	
Parent/Guardian full name(s)		
AECU member number	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's account <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian account <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
High school name		
Intended college/university		

School involvement

Activity	Hours/ month	Duties/Responsibilities	School year			
			9	10	11	12

Community involvement

Activity	Hours/ month	Duties/Responsibilities	School year			
			9	10	11	12

Work history

Activity	Hours/ month	Duties/Responsibilities	School year			
			9	10	11	12

Full name _____

Signature _____ Date_____