



Gateway Friends  
of the Performing Arts  
Deborah E. Downing  
Memorial Scholarship



# Gateway Friends of the Performing Arts Deborah E. Downing Memorial Scholarship

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Within every successful high school performing arts program you will find a small group of students dedicated to pursuing the excellence and quality of performing arts education, not only for themselves, but also for all students involved in the program. These individuals' enthusiasm and unwavering dedication serve as the foundation for this success. These are the students who make the performing arts programs more than just classes, more than a place to perform and showcase talents. They create an environment that feels like a family.

Deborah Downing entered the Gateway High School music program as many other freshmen, unsure of how she would fit in or where her love of music would take her. She quickly found her place in both choir and band. She loved to sing and play her flute, and it didn't take long before she developed an interest in percussion. In her four years at Gateway, Debbie performed in the Girls Ensemble, The Athenians, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Woodwind Quintet as well as two World Champion Percussion Ensembles. Outside of Gateway, Debbie was a member of the Blue Knights Percussion Ensemble and was actively involved with the worship band at her church. Whether she was playing or singing, Debbie's musicality touched the hearts and souls of everyone around her. She developed skills as a leader and became Drum Major for Gateway High School's Marching Band as a junior and senior. Debbie's passion and excitement for music was contagious, and she was always a shining example for her fellow students.

The Gateway Friends of the Performing Arts Deborah E. Downing Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually by the Gateway Friends of the Performing Arts to a graduating senior from Gateway High School who has been actively involved in one of the school's performing arts programs. The student does not need to be pursuing a career in the performing arts.

The scholarship award will be \$500.00 and may be used for tuition and fees at an institution of higher learning, including colleges, universities, trade schools, business schools, or technical institutes located in the United States. AEF will issue the funds directly to the institution.

## Selection Criteria

Applicants for the Gateway Friends of the Performing Arts Deborah E. Downing Memorial Scholarship will be evaluated by a panel of judges according to the following criteria:

- Involvement in a performing arts program at Gateway High School (band, choir, orchestra and/or theatre)
- Leadership qualities
- Ongoing pursuit of excellence
- Scholarship and achievement
- Wholesome influence on others
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- Quality of application

## Application Procedure

Students wishing to apply for this scholarship must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Be in good standing at Gateway High School and maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA as of the end of the first semester of their senior year
- Complete the application form which accompanies this brochure, including answers to the questions outlined on the form
- Submit 2 letters of recommendation from the faculty or staff (excluding the performing arts instructors)
- Submit an unofficial school transcript which includes the first semester of the senior year
- Submit a letter of acceptance from the institute of higher learning
- Submit the attached Performing Arts Instructor Evaluation to your arts instructor and ask them to return the completed form to the APSEF office (15701 E. 1st Ave., #100)

## Deadline for Application

Please submit one (1) complete original application and five (5) complete collated and stapled copies. APSEF must receive all six (6) packets by the deadline date and time for your application to be considered. Submit application materials to: Aurora Public Schools Education Foundation, 15701 E. 1st Avenue, #100, Aurora, Colorado 80011.

## Presentation of Award

The scholarship winner will be publicly announced at the Gateway High School Spring Convocation Ceremony. Applicants will be notified by U.S. mail of application status.

Registration at the institution of higher learning must occur within four months following the date the scholarship is presented. If the scholarship winner does not pursue higher education within that time period, the scholarship will be withdrawn and awarded to an alternate who is also selected annually.

# Gateway Friends of the Performing Arts Deborah E. Downing Memorial Scholarship Application Form

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (Apt. No.) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (Apt. No.) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions in the spaces provided on the next 2 pages. Answer each question in one or two paragraphs.

1. Describe your involvement in the Gateway High School performing arts programs. Be sure to include names of programs and the years of involvement.
2. How do you positively contribute to the GHS performing arts programs outside of regular class hours?
3. How have you demonstrated your leadership qualities while attending Gateway High School?
4. Deborah Downing was dedicated to the principle of "Striving for Excellence." Please explain how this principle, "Striving for Excellence," fits into your life both at school and personally.
5. Briefly tell us three things you would like us to know about yourself.
6. What do you like most about your family?
7. What do you like most about school?

I verify the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*Type name if applying on-line*

## **Deadline - March 2, 2009 • 4:00 p.m.**

Please submit one (1) complete original application and five (5) complete collated and stapled copies. AEF must receive all six (6) packets by the deadline date and time for your application to be considered. Submit application materials to:

Aurora Public Schools Education Foundation, 15701 E. 1st Avenue, #100, Aurora, Colorado 80011

Phone: 303-326-2054



1. Describe your involvement in the Gateway High School performing arts programs. Be sure to include names of programs and the years of involvement.
2. How do you positively contribute to the GHS performing arts programs outside of regular class hours?
3. How have you demonstrated your leadership qualities while attending Gateway High School?



# Gateway Friends of the Performing Arts Deborah E. Downing Memorial Scholarship Application Gateway High School Performing Arts Instructor Evaluation

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The following form is designed to allow the performing arts instructors an opportunity to provide the scholarship evaluation team with their input on the applicants for this scholarship. This information will be reviewed along with the applicant's written responses.

**To the student applicant:** Please give a copy of this form to the performing arts instructors that have had you as a student in class. This completed form must be sent by the instructor to the Aurora Public Schools Education Foundation at 15701 E. 1st Avenue, #100 before the deadline for the application.

**Student Name**

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(Last)	(First)	(Middle)
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**Please list the number of years you have participated in each of the following performing arts programs while at GHS.**

___ Concert Band	___ Orchestra	___ Girl's Chorus	___ Theater 1
___ Symphonic Band	___ Jazz Band	___ Men's Chorus	___ Theater 2
___ Wind Ensemble	___ Percussion Ensemble	___ Women's Ensemble	___ Theater 3
___ Marching Band	___ Athenians	___ Intro to Theater	___ Other _____

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## Music Instructor Evaluation

(Scholarship Background)

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***Please rate the above student on the following criteria. Your evaluation will be considered as part of the process for the selection of the scholarship grantee.***

