

Matt Bertell Memorial Scholarship Application



The Bertell family is pleased to announce a scholarship in Matt Bertell's name. The Scholarship will be awarded annually, with at least one \$1,000 award, or two \$500 awards (to multiple recipients). Additional scholarship awards will be presented, any year that additional funds are available for distribution.

The **deadline for receipt of this scholarship application is April 30th each year**. The scholarship award decisions will be made and communicated by May 3rd each year, with tuition payments made directly to the attending institution(s) that fall (August/September), before the tuition payments are due.

Matt Bertell's Story

Matt Bertell was born and raised in Iowa City. Matt graduated from West High School in Iowa City in 2016. Matt loved bowling and bowled all 4 years of high school on the West High bowling team. After graduation from West High, Matt went on to the University of Iowa, where he was a Sport Management Major, and also bowled competitively on the University of Iowa Bowling Club team. Matt struggled socially and was diagnosed at a young age with the disorder NVLD (non-verbal learning disorder). Although Matt was well liked and had many friends and teammates, NVLD made it difficult for Matt to express his feelings and communicate freely with others. This led to anxiety over seemingly routine actions such as carrying on conversations or making new friends. Over time, these challenges compounded themselves into an apparently insurmountable wall to Matt, and at the beginning of Matt's Junior Year of college (Aug 2018), he took his own life.

Matt was such a nice kid, and everyone that knew Matt liked him. Matt also wanted to please everyone and put tremendous pressure on himself to never let anyone down. Most people that knew Matt talked about his laugh, and people really enjoyed making him laugh and smile.

Besides bowling, Matt enjoyed travel, Iowa Hawkeye Sports (mainly football and basketball), NASCAR, and the NBA.

This scholarship is to not only honor Matt and his life, but to also help students with their tuition.

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for this scholarship:

- Must be a senior in high school and graduating the same year applying for this scholarship.
- Must attend further educational schooling that same fall (August/September) after high school graduation, at an accredited institution.

*Scholarship award preferences will be given to individuals with the following attributes:

**These are preferences, not requirements, and are in no particular order.*

- Students that bowled competitively in high school, with additional preference if bowled for West High or City High in Iowa City.
- Students that plan to bowl competitively in college (collegiate team - club or sanctioned).
- Students that plan to attend the University of Iowa.
- Students that have diagnoses of, and/or experience social difficulty and/or similar challenges.

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Please complete the following information:

Personal Info:

Name: _____

Address (street, city, state zip): _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

High School Info:

Name of High School attended: _____

High school graduation date (Month/Year): _____

Extracurricular activities you participated in during high school (sports, clubs, etc): _____

High school awards earned/received: _____

Post High School/Institute Info:

School or Institute attending: _____

Date school begins (month/day/year): _____

Major or area of study/training: _____

Planned extracurricular activities at school (sports, clubs, etc): _____

Other:

Why are you a good candidate for the Matt Bertell Memorial Scholarship? (in 1 paragraph or less)

List any diagnosed disabilities, and/or social challenges you have?

How do you try and overcome those challenges or any past challenges in your life?

Name a time you saw a person or had a friend struggling and what you did to help them.

Why do you love to bowl/play sports/do the activities you do?

Instructions:

Please fill out this scholarship application, and email it to the email address below.

Application must be received by the deadline of April 30th.

**Any questions regarding the scholarship or application, can be sent to the email address listed below*

Email the completed application to the email address below:

tbertell@mchsi.com

Thank you for filling out this application. Hundreds of friends and acquaintances of Matt Bertell and his family have made this “Matt Bertell Memorial Scholarship” possible through their generous donations to the scholarship fund. The Scholarship Fund has ample principal, and is invested so it should prosper, allowing it to grow larger over time, and be awarded annually in perpetuity.