



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Partners for Better Communities

Student Scholarship Opportunity

Code Officials – Partners in Community Safety and Economic Growth

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is offering a secondary or higher education scholarship to all juniors and graduating high school seniors, and current first, second or third year students of a two or four year institution.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a 1000-word or less essay that illustrates how code officials promote community safety and economic growth in their community.

Essay Prompt

The International Code Council (ICC) www.iccsafe.org is a member-focused association dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build, and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable, and resilient structures. Every May ICC promotes an awareness campaign called Building Safety Month. Building Safety Month highlights the ways communities and its citizens can stay safe in the buildings that we live, school, work, and play in. It also brings attention to the important work of the code official whose job it is to ensure that all buildings are constructed safely.

This May the Building Safety Month theme is 'Code Officials – Partners in Community Safety and Economic Growth'. Please write a 1000 word or less essay on the ways that you think the code official partners in community safety and economic growth in your town, city, or county and the impact it has in your community. Consider what you see in your community as evidence of their role in safety and economic growth and in what ways do you benefit or are impacted by the important work that they do.

Scholarship Rules

1. This scholarship is open to residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia only. Entrants must be a current junior or graduating high school senior within Virginia public schools, Virginia private schools, or those that are Virginia home schooled. In addition, this scholarship is open to those students who will be enrolled in a two or four higher education institution this coming fall semester.
2. All submissions become the property of the Department of Housing and Community Development and will not be returned.
3. All entries must be original work and not previously published.
4. Essays must be 1,000 words or less, clearly labeled with entrant's name, name of high school or higher education institution, home address, phone number, and email address in the upper right hand corner of the submission. If one more than one of paper page numbers should be in the lower left hand corner.

5. All submissions should be typed and submitted via email (preferred) or by US mail to:

VA Department of Housing and Community Development
Building Code Safety Month Essay Contest
Attn: Rishaunda Robinson
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219
Rishaunda.robinson@dhcd.virginia.gov

6. All entries must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2017.
7. DHCD has the right to edit and publish entries as deemed fit both in print and on the Web.
8. The scholarship recipient, and his or parent(s) or legal guardian agree to the use of the recipient's name and entry in any form for publicity or trade purposes by DHCD, without additional compensation.
9. No substitutions of the stated scholarship will be offered.
10. Family members of DHCD employees are not eligible to participate.
11. Scholarship recipient will be announced June 15, 2017
12. The prize of \$1500 will be sent to the scholarship recipient.

Selection Criteria

1. All submissions become the property of DHCD and will not be returned.
2. All entries must be original work and not previously published
3. All entries will be judged equally on the basis of merit by a selection committee that will look for:
 - a. Content and understanding of essay's theme
 - b. Originality
 - c. Clear reasoning
4. Selection Committee decisions are final.