

Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Migrant Scholarship

Thank you for your interest in the **2026** Al Wright Scholarship!

The purpose of this scholarship is to honor an eligible migratory student who has overcome significant barriers presented by mobility, has performed well academically, and who has provided service to his or her community.

To be **eligible** for this scholarship you must:

- Be a ***migrant*** student! → You and your family move for agricultural, dairy, timber or fishing-related employment and have sustained disruption of your schooling or education.
- Be a ***dedicated*** student! → Show us you care and you're willing to work hard! We're looking for academic achievement or improvement in your official transcript.
- Be a ***graduating high school senior*** → This scholarship is intended for students who will be entering college for the first time.
- Demonstrate ***financial need*** → We want to make sure this scholarship goes to someone who could really use the help, so you need to estimate how much you think your education will cost, how much you have saved so far, and any scholarships you have already applied for or received.

Sound like you? Then apply! If selected, you will be awarded at least \$3,000 to help pay for college.

A completed application form must be **received** at the address specified above by **March 11, 2026**. For specific guidelines, please see the rest of the application.

Early applications are highly encouraged, since applications will be reviewed as they are submitted.

Submit completed application packet to:

Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Migrant Scholarship
ATTN: Henry Manning
NASDME
1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 915
Washington, DC 20036

2026 Scholarship Guidelines

Summary:

To honor an eligible migratory student who has overcome substantial barriers presented by mobility, who has performed well academically, and who has provided service to their community. NASDME intends this scholarship (at least \$3000) to go to a mobile student or students who have attended more than one school in a year and/or who have traveled on their own or with a parent or guardian in pursuit of qualifying agricultural, agriculture-related, dairy, timber or fishing work in the summer or regular school term. Students who have not moved will not be considered for this scholarship. Scholarships will be given only to graduating high school students entering college for the first time

Application requirements:

- **Proof of Migrant Education eligibility** – (Attach a legible and clear copy of a “**Certificate of Eligibility**” showing qualification during the past three calendar years or any time during high school). This can be obtained from a local school district through the migrant education staff;
- **Two letters of recommendation**, at least one of which must be from a school, community or educational agency representative with personal knowledge of the applicant’s character;
- **A personal essay of at least 500 words** describing the applicant’s background (which includes information about disrupted schooling and barriers presented because of agriculture/fishing-related mobility), the applicant’s career and personal goals, and why he or she should receive this assistance;
- **A copy of a high school transcript** showing the most recent grades obtained;
- **Proof of acceptance and/or enrollment** at a post-secondary degree-granting institution.
 - If the student has not yet been accepted to any such institution, the student must **provide a list of colleges to which applications have been submitted** and the applicant **MUST** keep the committee informed by e-mail (abranzspall@mt.gov) regarding acceptance as soon as it is received
- **Financial need documentation**—examples: a copy of the most recent school financial aid form, loan documentation, family tax return (include only the first two pages and black out any Social Security Numbers or ITINs); or other letter from an institution documenting financial aid; or, if these are unavailable, a descriptive narrative regarding the family’s financial need

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Complete Application must be RECEIVED by DEADLINE of
Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

**No incomplete or late applications will be considered.
Applicants must use THIS year’s form. Please do not use forms from past years.**

2026 Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Migrant Scholarship APPLICATION FORM

This form must be **RECEIVED at NASDME's Office in Washington, DC** by **Wednesday, March 11, 2026, required documentation. No application will be accepted after Wednesday, March 11, 2026.** Failure to submit a completed or timely application packet will result in disqualification. This application form may be photocopied. Neatly print or type. Please no faxes or e-mailed applications.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ ☐ student ☐ parent ☐ other

E-mail: _____

Street/Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Address (if different from mailing address):

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Name of school currently attending (_____) _____
Applicant school telephone number

School Address Anticipated date of graduation _____

Guidance Counselor's name / Email address (_____) _____
Guidance Counselor's telephone number

Migrant Counselor's name / Email address (_____) _____
Migrant Counselor's telephone number

School District Migrant Director name / Email address (_____) _____
School District Migrant Director's telephone number

Name of post-secondary institution(s) to which you have been accepted (attach proof of acceptance, or if no acceptances yet, a list of colleges to which you have applied.

FAMILY INCOME: In which bracket does your family income fall?

_____ 0 - \$10,000 _____ \$10,001 - \$15,000 _____ \$15,001 - \$20,000 _____ 20,001 - \$25,000 _____ \$25,001 - \$30,000
_____ \$30,001 - \$35,000 _____ \$35,001 +

Number of persons supported by this income: _____

It is required that you provide supporting documentation for family income. Please black out Social Security Numbers or ITINs.

SCHOOL EXPENSES/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In the table on the left, **please list your expected expenses for the coming academic year.** In the table on the right, **please list all financial assistance approved and/or expected for the academic year.** You must itemize as completely and specifically as possible in both charts.

Expected Estimated Expenses for the Academic Year	
Expense	Expected Cost
Tuition	
Books	
Housing	
Meals	
Transportation	
Other (please specify)	
TOTAL:	

Approved or Expected Financial Aid for the Academic Year	
Amount	<u>Source of Financial Assistance</u> (parents, loans, scholarships, work-study, etc.)
\$0	
\$1 - \$500	
\$500 – \$1,000	
\$1,000 -- \$2,000	
\$2,000 -- \$5,000	
More than \$5,000	
TOTAL:	

Please note: If you have received a scholarship, you are still eligible to apply for this award.

APPLICANT AGREES to the use of his/her name, photographs, and information (other than financial) included in this application for educational, advertising, and promotional purposes for the Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Migrant Scholarship and migrant education programs without further compensation or notification. The applicant further agrees to give permission to the post-secondary institution listed to release his/her educational and financial records to a representative of the Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Migrant Scholarship screening committee, if requested.

Applicant also agrees to have immediately available, a high-resolution photograph for use in the National Conference program.

The information on this form and in the application, package is true and correct to the best of my knowledge as evidenced by these signatures.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

If applicant is under 18 years of age, please provide parent/guardian signature below:

Parent's/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name (printed) _____

This is Your Checklist. Please do not send this page to NASDME.

**APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE
WASHINGTON, DC ADDRESS BY
March 11, 2026**

Application Checklist

- ☐ 1. Completed Application Form (**2026** version only)
- ☐ 2. Clear Copy of Migrant Education Eligibility (COE)
- ☐ 3. High School Transcript
- ☐ 4. Proof of College Acceptance/Enrollment
- ☐ 5. Financial Need Documentation
- ☐ 6. Personal Essay
- ☐ 7. Two letters of Reference

Please be sure all items are provided, and in this order or your application will be rejected as “incomplete”

PLEASE MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Migrant Scholarship
ATTN: Henry Manning
NASDME
1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 915
Washington, DC 20036

**NO FAXES OR E-MAILS WILL BE ACCEPTED
APPLICATIONS MAILED ON OR AFTER March 11, 2026
WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Please make sure you follow **ALL** directions, and avoid the following common mistakes:

1. The application **must** include **financial need documentation**.

Examples of appropriate documentation include:

- copy of recent **school financial aid** form; OR
- **loan** documentation; OR
- family **tax return** (include only the first two pages and black out any Social Security Numbers or ITINs); OR
- letter from an institution documenting **financial aid**;

If none of these forms are available, please provide a **short description of the family's financial need**.

2. Applications must include **confirmation of acceptance** from post-secondary degree-granting institution, OR, if this is not available, the student **must** provide **a list of colleges** where they have applied and/or are planning to apply.

3. Applicants must use the **2026** Application Guidelines found on the NASDME website at www.nasdme.org, not outdated forms from past years.

4. Materials must be **submitted in the order listed** on the Application Checklist.

5. Applications must be **received** by the NASDME office by **March 11, 2026**. This address is included on the 2026 Application form. Applications received after that date will **not** be considered.

Do not return this page to NASDME.

Who was ALBERT LEE WRIGHT, JR.?

For more than two decades, Al Wright, a native of Louisiana, served as Migrant Education's voice and as the program's quintessential advocate.

Long before e-mails and listservs, Al made sure that migrant educators and other farmworker advocates were kept informed about important national and state developments impacting migrant families through the nationally distributed publication, MEMO – Migrant Education Messages and Outlook. Al used his remarkable talent as a journalist to portray to MEMO's readers the many challenges faced by farmworker families—this nation's poorest and most disadvantaged people. He was living proof of "the power of the pen".

Al also served as Migrant Education's historian and archivist. In addition, he wrote many of the National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education (NASDME) reauthorization position papers and developed much of NASDME's testimony to Congress on behalf of Migrant Education. He authored or co-wrote many articles for publication, including "Children of the Road: Migrant Students, Our Nation's Most Mobile Population" commissioned by the Poverty and Race Research Action Council and published by Howard University. Al also co-authored an article entitled "A History of Advocacy for Migrant Children and Their Families: More than 30 Years in the Field" for the book Scholars in the Field, The Challenges of Migrant Education, published by ERIC.

Ensuring access to educational and supportive services for migrant children was a constant and recurrent theme of Al's work and one to which he remained true throughout his career. After his retirement from many years at the Louisiana Department of Education, Al stayed involved with the Migrant Education Program by accepting a job as NASDME's special projects and events coordinator. He skillfully staged several of the annual National Migrant Education Conferences, an event with thousands of participants from throughout the nation and the largest conference of its kind dedicated to the improvement of services to migrant children and their families.

Just as the lives of countless children were improved because of Al's life-long work on their behalf, so too were the lives of hundreds of his colleagues across the country just by having known him. Though he was a man who wrote beautifully on paper, in person Al Wright was a man of few words. But when he spoke, everyone listened. He was an eloquent, always rational speaker; an articulate debater; a true Southern gentleman – in the best sense of the phrase; and a man of the highest integrity and honesty who could not and would not tolerate injustice.

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