

2021 REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: John Paluch
Members: Ernie Brauchli, Fred Glure, Rob Streit

The Corona Virus Pandemic continued to dramatically impact elementary, secondary and higher education with many schools taking advantage of computer technology to provide instruction remotely during the 2021/2022 academic year. Happily, the SBS Education Committee was once again able to evaluate applications and award scholarships in all three scholarship programs. For the second year, we provided scholarships to the Virtual Villages offered by the Concordia Language Villages. The Villages were able to return to live programming and offered a reduced selection of live programming, which we decided not to support in the summer of 2021. The Villages were very happy to report zero cases of infection thanks to their increased healthcare protocols. We once again awarded Merit Scholarships to Chicago Public School graduating seniors and Undergraduate Scholarships to students of Swiss ancestry, knowing that tuition payments would still need to be made even if colleges and universities were using only remote learning models. For the second year, our administrator, Ursula Furrer facilitated the collection of all applications using emails and attachments, thus reducing dramatically the problems associated with submissions using the US Postal service. The members of the Education Committee are very pleased that the SBS can continue to support so many different students from metropolitan Chicago, Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana. The SBS awarded **\$36,765** in scholarship money to grade school, high school and college students during the 2021-2022 academic year.

OUR THREE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Merit Scholarships

Merit Scholarships support highly qualified, low-income students in Chicago Public Schools with plans to study at a four-year college. We are continuing to work with Lane Tech College Prep, Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy and George Westinghouse College Prep and all three schools were able to provide us applications. This year the committee awarded one scholarship each to students at Brooks and Westinghouse and two scholarships to students from Lane, resulting in a total of **\$8,000**.

Language Immersion Scholarships for Concordia Language Villages

The application numbers were significantly lower this year, with parents realizing that there was a low likelihood that the Concordia Language Village programming would take place. There was a total of nine applications, four German, five French. All students were offered the opportunity to participate in a Virtual Language Village Course and seven students indicated that they wished to enroll. In the end there were seven students who received tuition reimbursements of \$395. In comparison, there were 11 applications in 2020/21, 53 applications in 2019/2020 and 36 applications in 2018/2019. The total awarded amount was **\$2,765**.

Both the Northern Illinois AATG and the Chicago Area AATF were contacted in early April, but only the AATG followed up on using a SBS-Concordia Language Village scholarship for their award program.

Undergraduate College Support Scholarships

The Undergraduate College Support Scholarships provide support to students of Swiss heritage. There were 25 applicants and winners this year: thirteen in Category I (Seniors in High School), eight in Category II (Freshmen in College), and ten in Category III (Sophomores or Juniors in College). The total amount of scholarships awarded was **\$26,000**. *Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship.

All 2021-2022 winners are listed here and on the SBS web page at: <http://www.sbschicago.org>. Applications for the 2022-23 year scholarships are available on our webpage directly or through e-mail or regular mail.

Respectfully submitted,
March 1, 2022

John Paluch
Chair, Education Committee