

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Chair: John Paluch

Members: Ernie Brauchli, Fred Glure, Silvia Schmid-Rykowski, Rob Streit

The Education Committee continued its three scholarship programs during the difficult years of the pandemic. The most notable change was Concordia's pivot to Virtual Language Villages during 2020 and 2021. Beginning in 2021, the Villages added a restricted number of "reduced enrollment" sessions in some Villages and we were very pleased to hear that in 2022, they had returned to a robust schedule of live programming.

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 third 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 paid out **\$36,000** in scholarship money to grade school, high school and college students during the 2022-2023 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***

We were pleased to see a small pool of applications for the advertised one-week CLV sessions. We awarded 6 one-week scholarships to students studying German and 3 scholarships to students studying French. Additionally, we awarded 1 two-week scholarship for the AATG Testing and Awards winner. Only four students in German and one student in French were able to take advantage of the scholarship. The application numbers were significantly lower this year, with parents realizing that there was a likelihood that the Concordia Language Village programming would take place. There were nine applications, six for German, three for French and all students were offered scholarships. In comparison, there were 9 applications in 2021/2022, 11 applications in 2020/21, 53 applications in 2019/2020 and 36 applications in 2018/2019. The total awarded amount was **\$8,370**, and we paid **\$4,000** to the Villages.

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. We are in good communication with both organizations.

#### ***Undergraduate College Support Scholarships***

The Undergraduate College Support Scholarships provide support to students of Swiss heritage. There were 22 applicants and winners this year: four in Category I (Seniors in High School), six in Category II (Freshmen in College), and 12 in Category III (Sophomores or Juniors in College). \*18 students received a \$1,000 scholarship and 4 students received \$1,500. The total amount of scholarships awarded was **\$24,000**.

All 2022-2023 winners are listed here and on the SBS web page at: <http://www.sbschicago.org>.

Applications for the 2023-24 year scholarships are available on our webpage directly or through e-mail or regular mail.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Paluch  
Chair, Education Committee  
March 20, 2023