Piggyback Scholarship Program

Sponsored by the Iowa Grocers Education Foundation

Scholarships Help Students & Increase Store Visibility

Setting up a local scholarship program is one of the most rewarding and visible acts of public service any business can undertake. However, many find the administrative and legal requirements of developing and offering such a program daunting and costly.

The Iowa Grocery Industry Association (IGIA) has streamlined the process for a business wishing to create and promote a local scholarship program. Through the IGIA, members can offer a local scholarship program tailored to their communities, without having to set up their own administrative systems and pay the expenses that go along with that.

Central Administration, Local Control

IGIA has been an avid supporter of higher education for more than two decades. Through its educational foundation, the Association offers its own scholarship program. The legal, application, administrative and promotional tools of the IGIA scholarship program are well established. As an IGIA member, you can use these tools to provide your own scholarship program.

Create Your Scholarship

Businesses that take advantage of the centralized administration offered by the IGIA are essentially "piggybacking" on an existing IGIA program, yet they maintain control of the local scholarship.

- **Name the scholarship awards:** Many organizations use their company's name, while others memorialize a company founder or person who has made a large impact in the community or business.
- **Establish the selection criteria:** Academics, extra-curricular, or needs-based, employees only or geographically centralized — the selection criteria are yours.
- **Determine the number of awards:** You may use the IGIA program to offer as many scholarships as you'd like.
- **Determine the amount of the awards:** A minimum $500 scholarship is required to use the IGIA services. However, you may offer more.

Student Application Process

Each November, the IGIA sends a digital poster announcing its own scholarship program to members. The poster describes eligibility criteria and the process of applying. If you are offering your own scholarship, your employees and/or their children can apply for your scholarship through the IGIA application. Applicants who do not meet the IGEF's scholarship criteria are still eligible to compete for your scholarship if they meet your criteria.

The Cost to My Business? A Tax-Deductible Donation

To participate in the program, businesses make a charitable contribution to the IGEF, a tax-exempt entity. To ensure consistency and tax-exempt status, the scholarship awards are paid directly to the college, not to the student. Both the winners and the colleges are informed of the name of the scholarship and the source of these funds. Your business is billed for the total amount of your "Piggyback" award by IGEF in April. The scholarship program administration fees and application production costs are paid by IGEF.

Begin the Process

To begin the process and offer a business-specific or local scholarship, simply complete the IGEF Piggyback Scholarship Commitment Form and return the completed form to the IGIA office no later than October 16.

Questions?

For clarification or more information on the program, please contact Annie Lallier at the IGIA office, 515-270-2628 or alallier@iowagrocers.com.