

Proposed Annual Scholarship

Virginia A. Valenze Scholarship Award

Establish an annual named Scholarship Award (the Virginia A. Valenze Scholarship Award) for a graduate of Plattsburgh Senior High School (PHS)

- Starting in 2025, the award has been funded with \$5,000. The intent is to award \$500 annually.
- The Virginia A. Valenze Scholarship Award will be presented at the PHS Graduation Ceremony
- The Award winner will be determined by the Scholarship Committee, to include Virginia A. Valenze

Criteria for this scholarship award will include:

- Acceptance at an accredited 4-year college or university
- Four-year high school academic average of 85 or higher
- Student who has lost a parent
- Student who is compassionate, thoughtful and curious
- Intent to pursue a liberal arts degree (special consideration given to those majoring in Communications, Journalism or Public Affairs)
- Demonstrated participation in extra-curricular, community or volunteer activities including sports, band, orchestra, National Honor Society, scouting, etc.
- Demonstrated financial need

Virginia A. Valenze Scholarship Award Application

The Virginia A. Valenze Scholarship Award of \$500 will be given to one student who has exhibited both academic and extra-curricular excellence and who has financial need. The intent is to support a compassionate, thoughtful and curious individual and stellar student whose family and personal financial circumstances may not otherwise allow them to pursue higher learning. Hopefully this award will provide some assistance needed to help establish a strong foundation for success in later life and to aid in future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION:

In 1968, the world turned upside down with the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, and along with it the personal world for Virginia Valenze, a 1968 honors graduate of Plattsburgh High School who first lost her sister in elementary school and then her mother in her senior year, all the while participating in athletics, cheerleading, band/orchestra, National Honor Society, Student Council and numerous other extra-curricular activities without the kind of support most families are able to provide. Teachers like Hal Moskowitz and Malcolm Gravelle recognized her talent and resilience, and provided guidance, as well as Guidance Counselor Marguerite Clark, who provided both the emotional and educational guidance needed at that critical time of great loss, challenging even under the most 'normal' circumstances. It has always been Virginia's wish to establish a fund for students who face similar, difficult and sometimes overwhelming situations. With Ms. Clark's guidance, Virginia applied for and received academic scholarships from several top-tier institutions, choosing Skidmore College. After graduating from Skidmore, she went on to a successful career in senior leadership positions in communications, sports marketing and public affairs, working for two governors and several Fortune 100 companies, including Coors, Sports Illustrated, American Express and later in patient advocacy for pharmaceutical giants Pfizer, Roche and Novartis. She is active on several national non-profit boards, including a ten-year stint as Chairman of the Board for the New Jersey Susan G. Komen organization. Her lifelong desire has been to pay it forward so others will not have to endure the helplessness of a cancer diagnosis for themselves or for any family member.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CRITERIA

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Applicant Name: _____

Submission Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Academic Average: _____

**University/College
planning to attend:** _____

Accepted (Y/N): _____

Major/Area of Interest: _____

Please provide the following additional information:

- **Two references** (can be teachers, outside leaders, clergy, supervisors) and contact information
- **Demonstration of financial need** (completed form) along with your own words explaining any extenuating circumstances for you and your family that should be considered when awarding this scholarship
- A list of **extra-curricular activities (band/orchestra, sports, clubs) and community service and/or employment**
- A list of **Scholarship/Athletic Awards (National Honor Society, etc.)**
- **A short, typed essay** stating what has led you to your decision to pursue a degree, what you believe you can contribute to the world and why you feel you should be awarded this scholarship