

# Council of Higher Education

An Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation

Winter 2009

*Dear Friend,*

The Board of Trustees of the Council of Higher Education (the Council) is happy to report that despite the economic downturn, we have increased our scholarship commitment to American and Canadian students of Czech, Slovak and Ruthenian ancestry. The Board meets a minimum of three times annually. Out-of-town members participate through conference call set-up, which has allowed the Board to expand its membership beyond the Chicago Metropolitan area.

Whereas in the recent past the Council has been awarding scholarships totaling \$80,000, this year we increased our commitment to \$100,000. This was done after consultation with our investment counselor at the Northern Trust Co. We are closely monitoring our investments to determine if we will be able to continue that amount this coming year without jeopardizing our commitment to future generations of students. The Council is having a tremendous impact on the educational careers of worthy students. Because of our increased commitment this past year, the Council provided scholarships to a total of 49 students. Twenty-six students were new recipients and 23 were renewals. Each of these students demonstrated financial need.

The Council is making every effort to publicize our scholarships, especially on our website and through the efforts of Scholarship America. These efforts seem to be having a positive effect. This year we received 51 new applications. We hope to increase our efforts again next year. We are also working to expand and update our mailing list so that word about the Council is more broadly distributed. You can assist us by letting us know if you have been receiving multiple copies of this newsletter or if your address is not correct. Also, we would appreciate receiving the names and addresses of your friends who might be interested in supporting the work of the Council.

The current economic crisis is forcing everyone to rethink their investments and expenditures. The Council has been very fortunate in its investments. Like everyone we have suffered some losses, but overall the Council continues to be optimistic and is committed to raising funds even in this difficult economic environment. Council support for students pursuing a higher education is even more important in periods of tight money. We thank you for your past support and ask you to be generous in the future.

Yours very truly,  
Michael P. Seng  
President

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## CHE Congratulates Its 2008-09 Scholarship Recipients

**T**he Council of Higher Education is pleased to report that 49 new and renewal scholarships have been awarded to students representing a cross section of geographical areas and a variety of majors. Scholarships are based on academic achievement, with need being a significant consideration, and are awarded to U.S. and Canadian students of Czech, Slovak and Ruthenian descent. Study may be at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Fifty-one first-time applications were received, and of these, 26 scholarships were awarded; an increase of 18 over last year, for awards totaling \$55,000. Two of the 26 were named Seclef-Hoetzel scholars, selected on the basis of superior academic achievement. In addition, 23 renewal scholarships totaling \$44,800 were distributed to students who remained in good academic standing.

This year's Seclef-Hoetzel Scholars, who received awards of \$3,500 for the year are:

**Nicholas R. Knezek** of Sanger, TX, a freshman at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, where he plans to major in engineering. He graduated from Sanger High School, where he was a national merit scholar, a National Ocean Sciences Bowl contestant, President of the Robotics Club, and student council member.

**Jennifer M. Penas** of Silver Lake, MN, a freshman at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN, where she plans to major in biology. She graduated from Holy Trinity High School in Winsted, MN, where she was the valedictorian of her class, President of the National Honor Society, a member of the band, and also received the John Philip Sousa Award. Ms. Penas received a Kodak Young Leader's Award, the President's 2007 Volunteer Service Award, and the United States National Mathematics Award.

The Council of Higher Education Scholarship recipients who received \$2,000 each for the first time are:

**Zuzana Andrejcová** of Perth Amboy, NJ, a graduate of Obchodna Akademia in Trebisov, Slovakia, and now a senior at Montclair State University in Upper Montclair, N.J.

**Julie Bannerman** of Seattle, WA, pursuing a master's degree in music education at the University of Washington in Seattle.

**Kristina Bartek** of Schaumburg, IL, a freshman at Johnson & Wales University in Denver, CO, planning to major in nutrition.

**Cassandra Belek** of Overland Park, KS, attending the University of Missouri in Columbia and studying magazine journalism.

**Alzbeta Bowden** of Cordova, TN, a 2008 summa cum laude graduate of the University of Memphis, and now studying architecture at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She was the recipient of the Jonathan King Medal for Research.

**Aimee Carbaugh** of Urbana, IL, a junior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, majoring in anthropology.

**Austin Frerick** of Cedar Rapids, IA, a freshman at Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA, planning to major in political science.

**Ben Golden** of Okoboji, IA, a freshman at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, planning to major in political science.

**Julie Hodek** of Westmont, IL, a law student at DePaul University in Chicago. She is a summa cum laude graduate of Notre Dame and earned a master's

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degree in industrial and labor relations at Cornell University in 2003.

**Andrew Janata** of Palos Hills, IL, a freshman at DePaul University in Chicago, planning to major in finance.

**Josef Krutka** of Princeton, NJ, a sophomore at Mercer County Community College in West Windsor, NJ, studying information systems.

**Benjamin Malec** of Long Island City, NY, a freshman at Columbia University, planning to major in engineering.

**Christoph Mlinarchik** of Alexandria, VA, a law student at the Washington College of Law, American University.

**Ashley Mueller** of Geneva, NE, and Lafayette, IN, a graduate student in Youth Development and Agricultural Education at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN.

**Jessica Sauer** of Marion, IA, a graduate student at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., pursuing a master's degree in conflict resolution.

**Michael Schlenker** of Berwick, PA, a freshman at Penn State University, University Park, planning to major in Physics.

**Peter Slawniak** of Riverside, IL, a law student at Washington University in St. Louis, specializing in patent law.

**Amy Smetana** of Downers Grove, IL, a freshman at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA, planning to major in English.

**Fristina Stepanek** of Woodstock, GA, a freshman at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA, planning to major in international affairs.

**Nicole Surovcek** of Humble, TX, a freshman at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, planning to major in communications.

**Joshua Toroney** of Doubllassville, PA, a sophomore at Penn State University in University Park, PA, planning to major in mechanical engineering.

**Melissa Vavra** of McCool Junction, NE, a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, planning to major in dietetics.

**Adrian Vele** of Topsfield, MA, a sophomore at Clark University in Worcester, MA, majoring in international relations.

**Michelle Wiedel** of Fremont, NE, a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in business and marketing.

Of the 23 recipients of renewal scholarships of \$1,600 or \$2,000 each, there were 13 females and 10 males and 14 undergraduates. Students represent a wide range of geographical areas, universities and majors. Two students reside and are studying in Canada, while 16 others both reside and attend schools in Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin. The remaining students live in Illinois, Nebraska, South Dakota, Massachusetts and Maryland and are studying in Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, California and Washington, D.C. respectively. Areas of concentration are very diverse, with duplicate majors in engineering, law and music; the others are in biblical studies, biochemistry, biology, biomedical science, chemistry, computer science, criminal justice, English, general science, history, industrial technology, international affairs, journalism, medicine, physics, psychology and religious ethics. The Council of Higher Education congratulates all the recipients and wishes them and their families well.

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## April 1 Deadline for Scholarship Applications

**T**he Council of Higher Education is presently accepting scholarship applications for the 2009-2010 academic year. Scholarships are available to citizens and permanent residents of the United States and Canada to attend colleges and universities in those countries. Recipients must be of Czech, Slovak or Ruthenian descent.

Need is a primary factor in the awarding of scholarships. Students must be enrolled full time in an undergraduate or graduate program at an accredited two- or four-year institution of higher education.

Awards may be renewed for up to three years based upon satisfactory performance and continued full-time enrollment.

Each year, the Council names two Seclef-Hoetzel Scholars based on merit. This scholarship honors two donors who left a substantial legacy to the Council through their estates.

Further information about scholarships is available at [www.councilofhighereducation.scholarshipamerica.org](http://www.councilofhighereducation.scholarshipamerica.org) or at [www.cheonline.org](http://www.cheonline.org). All applications must be returned to Scholarship America by April 1, 2009.

## The Council Solicits Your Support

**T**he Council of Higher Education depends upon the generosity of donors to fund its support for students in higher education. An envelope and card are enclosed to assist you in making your contribution.

The endowment of the Council is largely a result of many bequests – gifts by will – from thoughtful

people who considered it only fitting to provide something from their estates to assist students who are pursuing a higher education. If you are considering a codicil, or a whole new will, may we suggest one more satisfying change – a bequest to assist the Council.

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