

THE GWEN HIGGINS ENGLISH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

HISTORY

This scholarship has been established by the family of Mrs. Miriam Gwendolyn Pilcher Higgins to honor her and her love of English literature.

Gwen Higgins was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on September 17, 1921. She lived in New Orleans until she was 8 years old and then moved with her family to Lafayette, Louisiana. Gwen completed high school at the age of 15 and began college at Southwestern Louisiana Institute, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Gwen completed two years of college at that time. She did, however, complete her degree in English at McNeese State University years later after marrying Arthur Douglas Higgins and raising six children. Gwen began teaching English at Goretti High School in Lake Arthur and taught for over 20 years. Gwen often said that books were her life and her window into a world far beyond her. This love of literature remained with her until the end of her life at the age of 93.

The purpose of this scholarship award is to inspire students to continue their studies and foster their love of English literature.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Each year, subject to availability of funds, one, \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior at Lake Arthur High School. This student must be pursuing a college degree beginning in the Fall following their graduation and have completed four years of English with the 4th year being English (not Business English). They must also have maintained a 3.5 GPA in their English courses.

CRITERIA

In making its decision, the Scholarship Advisory Committee will review the following required documents from each applicant:

- High School Transcript – minimum 3.5 GPA
- ACT/SAT Scores
- Academic Resume
- Letter(s) of Recommendation
- Personal Statement/Essay on “The Most Captivating Book I Have Read”

APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted by **March 17, 2024**. The recipient will be announced at graduation in May 2024.

Please visit <https://www.foundationswla.org/gwen-higgins-english-scholarship> to submit an application. Contact the Community Foundation of SWLA, 337-491-6688, or by email, dvaughan@foundationswla.org, with any questions.

