



## JOSEPH B. KIRKISH, Ph.D. CONGREGATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Copper Shores Community Health Foundation (CSCHF) has established the Joseph B. Kirkish, Ph.D. Congregational Educational Scholarship award. CSCHF will award a \$2,500 scholarship to two (2) graduating high school seniors or currently enrolled college/university students from our service area of Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, or Ontonagon counties. The scholarship is a one-time award to be expended in the 2026-2027 academic year. The successful recipient must meet the below-referenced criteria and submit their application to CSCHF, which will anonymously review the finalist applications to make an award decision.

### Eligible High Schools:

- Baraga
- L'Anse
- Calumet
- Chassell
- Dollar Bay-Tamarack City
- Hancock Central
- Horizons
- Houghton
- Jeffers
- Lake Linden-Hubbell
- Ewen-Trout Creek
- Ontonagon

### Eligibility Criteria:

- At the donor's request, the student must be a congregation member of St. Ignatius Loyola and/or St. Albert the Great Churches located in Houghton, Michigan, and a letter of recommendation from the parish clergy needs to be included with application;
- The student must graduate from high school during the 2025-26 academic year, or be currently enrolled at a post-secondary institution.
- The student must have at least a 2.5 GPA;
- The student must be accepted for admission to a post-secondary institution (proof of acceptance must be shown – however, if the student has not received notification of acceptance, they must attach evidence that they have applied to a school and indicate when they anticipate receiving notification from that school);
- The student must be intending to seek a post-secondary degree or certification;
- The student must be intending to be enrolled full-time (at least 12 credits);
- The student must demonstrate engagement in school and/or community activities; and
- The student must write a cover letter and accompanying essay in support of their application.

All eligible students are encouraged to apply; however, preference will be given to new applicants. The scholarship is a one-time award to be expended in the 2026-2027 academic year. The applicant must meet the above-referenced criteria and submit their application to Copper Shores Community Health Foundation. Applications will be redacted to ensure unbiased review by the committee, which will review the finalist applications and make an award decision.

### Important Date:

- The student must submit a completed application to the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation. Applications must be postmarked, emailed, or delivered to the CSCHF Office no later than February 27, 2026, to be considered. *All required documentation must be included at the time of application submission; incomplete applications will not be considered.* Materials should be sent to:

Copper Shores Community Health Foundation  
ATTN: Scholarships  
400 Quincy St. – PO Box 299  
Hancock, MI 49930 \* [info@coppershores.org](mailto:info@coppershores.org)



## JOSEPH B. KIRKISH, Ph.D. CONGREGATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

*A form-fillable application may be downloaded at [www.coppershores.org/scholarships](http://www.coppershores.org/scholarships)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

High School or College: \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please include transcript)

School(s) Accepted for Admission (must include proof of acceptance – if you have not received a notification of acceptance, please submit proof that you have applied to a school and indicate when you anticipate hearing from that school):

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Intended Area of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Degree/Certification: ☐ Certificate ☐ Associate Degree ☐ Bachelor's Degree

Please list any intended degree related coursework you have studied with corresponding dates:

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Please list any volunteer work and extracurricular activities you have participated in with corresponding dates:

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(OPTIONAL) If unable to volunteer or participate in extracurricular activities, what barriers prevent you from doing so: (example: work requirements, taking care of family member, etc.)

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## JOSEPH B. KIRKISH, Ph.D. CONGREGATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – CONTINUED

Students, please prepare a one-page cover letter that addresses the following questions:

- Why do you want to continue your education?
- What do you hope to accomplish academically while continuing your education?
- How do you hope to use your education once you have completed your training; and
- How does your ongoing education relate to the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation's mission?

*"To positively influence a healthful community through enhanced philanthropy and collaboration."*

In addition to the cover letter, please prepare a one-page essay that answers the following question:

- What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study?

### STATEMENT OF ACCURACY FOR STUDENTS

I hereby affirm that all the above information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also consent that if chosen as a scholarship winner, my picture may be taken and used to promote the scholarship program.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, according to CSCHF scholarship policy, it is my responsibility to submit to CSCHF the appropriate information for my scholarship to be paid directly to my educational institution or program.

I hereby understand that I will not submit this application without all required attachments and supporting information. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet eligibility criteria will not be considered for this scholarship.

**Signature of scholarship applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

If awarded, the student will be sent a Letter of Acceptance with additional information to complete and return. The scholarship award will be paid directly to the educational institution or program.