

Dear Parents and Advisors,

We are delighted that your student has shown interest in applying for the Milton Fisher Scholarship for Innovation and Creativity.

The MFS is not a traditional scholarship. While many scholarship opportunities are based on grades and scores, we understand that academic success reflects only one of the many kinds of intelligence. The Milton Fisher Scholarship rewards creative problem-solving: recognizing a challenge and successfully addressing it in fresh ways.

From among previous winning projects, here are a few chosen examples:

- a. Knowing from personal experience the ways in which a negative body image can affect a young person's self-esteem and self-worth, Luis Hernandez wrote a screenplay and directed a film that treated the subject with humor and compassion.
- b. Eileen Quirk creatively researched the relationship between the number of trees and the ozone levels in high schools in her community, leading to successful efforts to remediate the air quality surrounding her school by planting more trees.
- c. Living in a region plagued by Lyme Disease, Ryan Kerr wanted to develop an environmentally-safe way to control the tick population. After collecting ticks by using himself as bait in forested areas near his home and collecting engorged ticks from his neighbors' dogs, Ryan devised experiments that proved that introducing microscopic roundworms (nematodes) into the soil could effectively decrease tick populations.
- d. During her summer trips to India, Ankeeta Shah observed both the dire effects of hunger and the challenge of transporting food with high nutritional value over long distances. While the shelf-life of cucumbers is commonly extended with a petroleum-based wax, Ankeeta did experiments to demonstrate that a natural, healthy, edible coating worked just as well.

We now have an online application, which students may access via our web site: www.rbffoundation.org. In addition to the online portion of the application, students will need to submit certain materials (transcripts, e.g.) in hard copy. The application, which must be completed in English, may be challenging for some students. If the student gets discouraged or stuck, we hope that he or she is willing to contact us. We may be able to offer some support in their efforts to complete the application if they are unable to find such support within their own school or community.

The deadline for all of the information is April 30, 2016 for the 2016 cycle of awards. The decisions will not be made until August. Everyone who applies will be informed soon after the committee decisions are complete.

We wish all students the best of luck. We hope that you are proud of your child's accomplishments, and we look forward to receiving his or her completed application.

Sincerely,
The Milton Fisher Scholarship Team