The Richard G. Bickel, FAICP Planning Education Award

Promoting and Supporting Students Pursuing Planning Education in Pennsylvania

American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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About the Award and Award Criteria

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association encourages the promotion and pursuit of planning education through the administration of the **Richard G. Bickel, FAICP Planning Education Award**. This year, **three scholarships in the amount of $1,000.00 each** will be awarded to students enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate planning program in Pennsylvania (**Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, and West Chester University)**, who demonstrate the following objectives: good scholarship, a commitment to employment in the field of community, county or regional planning and a desire to enhance their expertise and/or develop new skills through their planning education program work.

Biography: Richard G. Bickel, FAICP, has been a practicing professional planner for more than 44 years. He obtained a BA degree in Sociology from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the formerly accredited Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. He received a master's degree in 1972, following completion of the final project requirement.

Richard began his career in 1971 at the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) in Norristown, Pennsylvania. He worked at the MCPC until 1984, rising to associate director, primarily involved in projects, intergovernmental activities and supervision of community planning for the county's local governments, as well as transportation planning, working with county, regional and state agencies in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Richard next worked at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) in Philadelphia from 1984 to 1990, as Director of Strategic Planning, preparing and supervising local and regional plans and studies in cooperation with DVRPC's member governments and operating agencies. From 1990 to 1998 he worked at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), where he was the Director of Long-Range Planning. He returned to DVRPC in 1998, retiring in 2014. He has continued his planning career as a Senior Advisor with Econsult Solutions, Inc., and as a Board member of PennTrans.

Richard has been active in the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners throughout his career. He has been President of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association, one of the forerunners of the current statewide chapter, chaired the chapter's Legislative Committee for many years, a member of the national Legislative and Policy Committee and a site visitor for the Planning Accreditation Board. In 2010 he was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Richard's planning career has been devoted to promoting the public interest; working with and assisting communities and people through planning and implementation of plans, programs, projects and studies; promoting fellowship among the planning community; and supporting planning students and their education. This award program is intended to help current students to become practicing planners and to support their careers.

It is the intention of this award to accomplish the following goals:

1. Encourage current planning students to continue their education within an accredited planning program;
2. Support a strong commitment to community betterment and the related public interest; and
3. Strengthen the currently accredited planning education programs in Pennsylvania.

As a result, the PA Chapter of APA intends to provide the recipients of the Richard G. Bickel, FAICP Planning Education Award with an educational stipend that can be used to further their continuing education toward a planning degree.

The award may be used to cover the recipient's tuition, room and board or books. Successful applicants must be prepared to expend the award within a time frame of two academic terms.

Recipients are eligible to receive a second award in subsequent years, when/if offered, after accepting the first award, if need can be demonstrated.

Specific application requirements are noted below. Review these materials thoroughly before applying for the award. Questions regarding the award program, application requirements or eligibility criteria should be addressed through email (info@planningpa.org). **The recipient of the award will be announced on the PA Chapter website, through e-blasts, and at the Annual Conference. The Award will be disbursed in late summer.**

Application Requirements

All applications must include:

1. Applicants ***must*** complete online application.
2. Applicants ***must*** submit an official transcript from their current program.
3. Applicants ***must*** submit a Resume, not to exceed two pages.
4. Applicants ***must*** submit a narrative explaining how the applicant meets each of the eligibility criteria for the award, not to exceed three pages.
5. Applicants ***must*** submit *two* Letters of Recommendation that confirm the level of commitment by the applicant toward pursuit of the objectives of this award.

Eligibility Criteria:
The following three criteria must be directly addressed in the narrative and will be strongly considered in determining the recipients of the award:

1. ***Planning Program/Academic Achievement:***
   The Richard G. Bickel, FAICP Planning Education Award is **open to all students currently enrolled in one of the four accredited planning programs in Pennsylvania.** Planners currently employed, and who are also enrolled as a student, are also eligible for consideration. Demonstration of high academic achievement is a critical part of this award. The Institution name, Applicant's course of study (including concentration or major), start date, and anticipated completion date must be identified.

2. ***Commitment to Employment in Planning:***
   Applicants should address how their course work, class projects, internships, volunteer activities, or related activities demonstrate an interest in planning principles and the planning process, as well as a commitment to continue in the planning profession. The Applicant's desire to enhance and develop planning skills and expertise, as well as future plans to enter, or continue in, the planning profession should be addressed. If applicable, information should be provided for the Applicant's place of employment, job title, supervisor, job description, and tenure.

3. ***Participation and Effectiveness:***
   Through discussion of class projects, internships, volunteer work and similar activities, Applicants should demonstrate how they have been effective in the formulation and implementation of plans and ideas, including working as a team member or interacting with community officials or the public.

Application Submission and Review

Deadline: Complete online application along with required materials by 11:59 PM, MAY 1, 2023.

Review: A jury of PA Chapter members will review all applicant submissions that are deemed to be complete and will determine the recipient of the award. Individuals may not attempt to influence or affect the outcome of the jury process. Any communication with jurors on behalf of an applicant is prohibited. Any such communication is reason for disqualification.