

GILBERT BALDERRAMA

Minority Scholarship Application

Gilbert Balderrama served 14 years as a special education classroom instructor in Texas and New Mexico until 1993. In 1994, he enrolled in the NEA Intern Program for Women and Minorities and Missouri NEA hired him to be the UniServ Director for the Southeast Unit. He moved to the St. Louis area and continued his employment with Missouri NEA until his death. Balderrama continued to support and give back to the NEA Intern program by not only teaching courses in the program, but also by mentoring new interns as they progressed from the internship to work. For more than 20 years during his MNEA employment, Balderrama was the staff liaison to the MNEA Human Rights Committee. As a representative from MNEA, Balderrama visited several universities and talked to future educators about teaching and the benefits of being part of MNEA. He had a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas; a master's degree in Special Education from Texas University in Denton, Texas; and a degree in Administration from Texas University in Denton, Texas. He also completed special certifications in Special Education-Emotionally Disturbed and Bi-Lingual Education.

- **ELIGIBILITY:** Applicant must be a minority high school senior in a Missouri public school accepted in a college or university pursuing a college degree.
- **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Received on or before **January 31, 2025**
- **RETURN TO:** Missouri NEA, HR Council, 1810 E. Elm Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101 or email to Lauren.Vinson@mnea.org

Applicant's Full Name: _____
Parents' or Guardians' name(s): _____
Name and Address of college accepted into: _____
Home Phone: (_____) _____ Home E-mail: _____

Class rank and/or ACT score: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Submit a school official signature below and include a copy of current transcript.

Counselor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signing here indicates your acknowledgement that this candidate meets the eligibility requirements listed above.

- **Current Scholarships/Grants:** Please list other scholarships and/or grants for which applicant has applied and/or received: _____
- **Extracurricular Activities/Leadership/Community Service/Achievements:** Include as an attachment, your years of involvement and awards. Additionally, please answer the following question: *"What qualities do you possess that make you uniquely deserving of this scholarship?"*
- **Two (2) Letters of Recommendation:** As an attachment, include two recent letters of recommendation from either a(n) administrator, counselor, teacher or other non-relative. Each letter must clearly state the name of the applicant being recommended, as well as the name, title, address, and phone number of the individual making the recommendation.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The scholarship entry must include the three bullets (above) and a copy of your current transcript.

Finalists may be called for personal interviews or further information. The winner will be announced in late April and the check will be sent to the Financial Aid Office of your college/university prior to the Fall Semester after the winner provides us their college student number.

Questions? Contact Lauren Vinson, Missouri NEA 1-800-392-0236 or email Lauren.Vinson@mnea.org.