



**Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)**  
Michigan State University  
120 Bessey Hall  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1033  
(517) 353-9642 (517) 355-1293 (TTY) (517) 432-3191 (fax)  
<http://www.rcpd.msu.edu/>

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## **Robert L. Decker and Benjamin Muns Friendship Memorial Scholarship**

The Robert L. Decker and Benjamin Muns Friendship Memorial Scholarship is awarded through the Michigan State University Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities in memory and recognition of two Ford Motor Company executives who worked together and, as friends, died together in a small airplane crash in June, 1990. The two men, Robert L. Decker, Vice President of Employee Relations; and Benjamin Muns, Director of Compensation Planning Office Employee Relations Staff, were committed to increasing the productivity of the work-force while enriching the quality of the work-place environment. Through an endowment offered by the wives of Robert and Benjamin, a scholarship fund exists to facilitate the continuance of the zest for life, concern for others, and ideals and goals held by the two. The Friendship Memorial Scholarship is an investment in ability that facilitates graduate studies by persons with disabilities.

The Robert L. Decker and Benjamin Muns Friendship Memorial Scholarship is awarded in the spring to a qualified student with a disability enrolled in a graduate degree program at Michigan State University for the following summer, fall or spring semester. Based on endowment performance, the scholarship generally produces two or more scholarships of up to \$5,000. Winners are selected by review of applicant achievement in a variety of areas including: academics, quality of references, clear definition of goals, pre-professional achievements including demonstrated leadership ability, demonstrated financial need, and quality and coherence of written essays. Recipients are encouraged to recognize this program as an investment in ability and are in turn challenged to invest in others by contributing as a donor to this program as they achieve success in a professional career.



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## **Robert L. Decker and Benjamin Muns Friendship Memorial Scholarship Application**

Please print legibly or type your responses to each item below. To be eligible for consideration your application must be received with all supporting documentation by noon, February 20 (or on the following Monday should February 20 fall on a weekend). Submit all documentation by mail or directly to your RCPD Specialist (ATTN: Friendship Memorial Scholarship).

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

Local Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. Current class/level: (check one)

Senior Undergraduate

Graduate

Non-enrolled but anticipating admission this academic year

2. Undergraduate major: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Admissions Status: (check one)

I am admitted to the college of \_\_\_\_\_, and will be seeking a degree in the \_\_\_\_\_ program within that college.

I have applied to the college of \_\_\_\_\_, and I am seeking a degree in the \_\_\_\_\_ program within that college. (Note: Eligibility for this scholarship depends on admission and enrollment in this program during the academic year immediately following the date of application submission).

4. Degree sought: (check one)

Masters

Doctorate

Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. Date on which you began or anticipate beginning your graduate program: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Expected completion date of graduate program: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Major academic advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Name of your RCPD Specialist: \_\_\_\_\_

In the table below, list and describe your involvement in student/pre-professional/professional organizations. Include any leadership position you have held in the organization or group. Use additional pages if necessary.

Date (start/end)	Organization	Description of Involvement

In the table below, indicate awards, scholarships, or other honors you have received. Use additional pages if necessary.

Date	Awards/Scholarships/Honors	Description

In the table below, outline all funding sources for your education as a graduate student (for the year the award will be used) . If you are not yet a graduate student you should estimate how your education will be funded. Use additional pages if necessary.

Cost	Source of Funding	Description

My signature below certifies that my responses to all items are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that my application may be rendered invalid if information provided contains inaccuracy or omission. If selected as a recipient of the Friendship Memorial Scholarship, I agree to: (1) Submit a letter of appreciation and acceptance of the scholarship to the donors within three weeks of the announcement of winners, (2) Attend the RCPD Awards ceremony. If extenuating circumstances prevent your attendance, contact RCPD.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Robert L. Decker and Benjamin Muns Friendship Memorial Scholarship

## Required Attachments

The following attachments must be submitted with the completed application form.

1. Reference letters: Please include two letters of reference from faculty members, academic advisors or others familiar with your abilities and goals in your field of interest. At least one of these letters must be from a university faculty member.
2. Copies of academic transcripts summarizing your academic performance for the most recent four years of academic study.
3. Documentation of disability (if not already on file with RCPD).
4. Write three brief essays, one for each of the following three topics. Limit each essay to two pages or less.
  - A. Describe your disability and how it has affected you (i.e., professional goals, self image, etc.).
  - B. Describe how your graduate studies will prepare you for your career and personal goals.
  - C. If you are awarded this scholarship, how do you plan to use it?

*\* If you need accommodations in completing this application, please contact your RCPD specialist.*