

You could win \$1500!!!

The 2024 Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Scholarship Award

The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) is proud to offer the Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Scholarship Award to a North Carolina high school senior with a disability. This award includes a \$1,500 scholarship, to be used for any post high school learning experience/training **or for** equipment/technology needed for employment.

ELIGIBILITY:

ALL North Carolina students with disabilities are eligible for nomination. Including students enrolled in the Occupation Course of Study, students who will be receiving a Graduate Certificate and students enrolled in the Future Ready Course of Study.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Matthew Carmen Graziadei was a remarkable young man who died in January 1998 at the age of 26. At the age of seven Matt was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy. He graduated from Myers Park High School in Charlotte, NC and was elected to Who's Who in American High School Students. Matt was a student intern at the Charlotte Mint Museum and served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association both locally and statewide. He achieved President's Honors at Central Piedmont Community College and served in Washington, DC with the US Surgeon General's Council on Families and Disabilities. Matt also started his own business and was a contractor in facilities, engineering and computer services.

Scholarship Award recipients will be selected by the Matthew C. Graziadei Scholarship Award Review Board based on these attributes:

- **Determination** - reaching above one's imagination
- **Perseverance** - remaining steadfast against all odds
- **Persistence** - starting from scratch and striving until successful
- **Dedication** - maintaining solid effort and achievement
- **Confidence** - overcoming obstacles through internal courage
- **Motivation** - seeing life as a series of opportunities, not obstacles
- **Fortitude** - keeping going after others have stopped
- **Accomplishment** - succeeding with on-going new vision

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will only be accepted through **Monday, February 5, 2024**. The award will be presented to the winning student during his/her high school awards ceremony. Based on applications received, additional students may be selected as Runner Up.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must submit the following documents for consideration, **NOTE NEW REQUIREMENT:**

- Student Information Form – **TRANSCRIPTS ARE NOT REQUIRED**
- **Nominated student must submit a written or dictated paragraph about why they qualify for this award and how they would use the award to help with their future plans.**
- Nomination Narrative - A one-page narrative, completed by school counselor, student or someone who knows the student describing the student and his/her accomplishments in relationship to the attributes. Include a brief personal history, education or career goals, and reasons why they should be selected for this award.
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
 - Administrator from high School: Principal or Assistant Principal
 - A Teacher, Coach, or School Counselor
 - Community Member – can include student's employer, Minister, another student, service provider, etc.

DEADLINE:

One copy of the completed, signed application packet must be received by **Monday, February 5, 2024**. Winner and finalists, if applicable, will be selected by April 12th and the Individual nominating the student or the high school counselor will be notified by May 3. Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible and rejected.

SEND TO:

To send via email, scan your completed application, supporting materials, etc. **into a single PDF** and email to **MCGaward@ecacmail.org**. If you have not received an email confirmation within 3 business days, please contact 800-962-6817 before application deadline.

If emailing this document is not possible, documents may be sent via USPS mail, FedEx, UPS or hand delivered to:

Matthew C. Graziadei Award
ECAC
907 Barra Row, Suite 103
Davidson, NC 28036

MATTHEW C. GRAZIADEI ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Student Information Form

Please complete online, type or print neatly. Thank you.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's disability: _____

Age: _____ Student's Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____
(if different from student)

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____

Name of High School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____ Email: _____

School Principal: _____

School Counselor Signature: _____ Date: _____

School Counselor Email: _____

Date/Location of Awards Ceremony: _____

The student is receiving:

Diploma:

Future Ready Course of Study

Occupational Course of Study

Certificate

The student spends the majority of the school day in:

Regular setting

Resource classroom

Separate setting

Separate building

Other

Extracurricular activities: (use additional paper if needed)

Volunteer activities: (use additional paper if needed)

Future Plans: (use additional paper if needed)

Additional Comments: (use additional paper if needed)

With permission, we will post a photo of the winner and/or runner up on our website and social media. Please have parent/guardian of student sign below.

I, _____ give permission for ECAC to use photograph and/or video tape of my child _____ and to use this material to post on their website, social media sites, and printed media with the intent of educating the public. Date: _____