



ROPE AWARD

Reaching for One's Potential for Excellence

ROPE recipients are selected based on a variety of criteria to include taking challenging academic classes, setting and reaching goals, demonstrating good citizenship in the school and in the community, and demonstrating the ability to overcome obstacles that might otherwise prevent them from reaching their goals.

Students begin meeting criteria for the ROPE Award the summer before their freshman year. Therefore, students need to understand that when they enter high school, they should work to do their very best and to challenge themselves with the classes they take and the goals they set for themselves. The requirements to be eligible to apply for the ROPE Award are listed in the ROPE Award Guidelines on page 2.

Mentors will be discussing the requirements and eligibility with their students during all four years of high school. The McNair office will be conducting periodic meetings to discuss requirements for eligibility. In early February, ROPE applications will be distributed to eligible seniors.

Once applications have been submitted, a committee of seven teachers will review each application individually and make the selections. The Teacher Advisory Council (TAC) is made up of high school and middle school teachers in each school district.

In 2017, 169 seniors were judged by this committee to have lived up to their academic potential. These students each received a framed certificate. Students were honored at a banquet hosted by Robert and Janice McNair and recognized at the high school's awards ceremonies.

ROPE recipients are also eligible for College Aid Awards of up to \$5600.00 for their 1st year of a 4-year college or up to \$2800.00 for a 2-year college.

To date, 2,016 students have received the ROPE Award and approximately \$7,021,080 in college aid funds through the Foundation. In 2017 alone, ROPE College Aid Awards totaled \$980,000.



ROPE GUIDELINES

The ROPE Award recognizes students who strive to meet their potential throughout high school and comes with the possibility of receiving college aid award money.

There are three options for receiving award money from the Robert and Janice McNair Educational Foundation:

1. If you attend a four-year university you are eligible to receive \$5,600.00.
2. If you attend a two-year college you are eligible to receive \$2,800.00
3. Bank your ROPE Award while earning an associate degree from ICC. Then transfer to a four-year university and use the ROPE Award by the fall of year three. ROPE funding must be utilized by the fall of year three after high school graduation. The dollar amount will be the same as the amount approved in your award year.

In order to be eligible to apply for a ROPE Award **YOU MUST:**

1. Have taken, or be enrolled in courses that qualify you to meet the UNC System Admission requirements.
2. Have a 3.0 weighted Grade Point Average
3. Meet required SAT or ACT scores OR take the SAT or ACT at least three times.
SAT Reading/Math minimum score – 840 before March 2016 or 920 after March 2016
ACT minimum score – 17.
See the guidance office or McNair office if financial assistance is needed to complete this requirement
4. Complete the minimum of 100 service learning hours by the time of application in March. These hours must be documented and verified on the Service Learning Verification Sheet and must be approved by the McNair office and completed by the application deadline. Hours count from summer prior to ninth grade year through ROPE application deadline of senior year.
5. Have applied to at least one college by time of application.
6. Maintain good character.
7. Complete the ROPE application and ask three of your high school teachers for a recommendation.
8. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) must be filed through the McNair Foundation with the Financial Aid Specialist to be eligible for McNair funds. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Information meetings will be held for students eligible to apply for the ROPE Award and their parents in January/February. Please note that meeting the above requirements makes a student eligible to apply for the Award. The Teacher Advisory Council (TAC) makes decisions on which students receive a ROPE Award. All decisions of the TAC are final. There is no appeal of this process.