

# BENEFICIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

E S S A Y C O N T E S T 2 0 0 7

## GUIDELINES

### *Background*

Beneficial Bank has been part of the neighborhood since 1853, and we have always believed in the importance of educating children and young adults. In keeping with our ongoing commitment to serving individuals, families, and businesses throughout the greater Philadelphia region, we are pleased to announce the fifth annual Beneficial Scholars Program. This year a Grand Prize scholarship of \$20,000 and five one-year scholarships of \$5,000 each will be awarded to high school seniors.

### *Award*

One \$20,000 scholarship (\$5,000 annually over four years), and five one-time \$5,000 scholarships.

### *Eligibility*

Applicants must:

- Be high school seniors, graduating in spring 2008 from public, private, parochial, and charter schools;
- Reside in Bucks, Chester, Delaware Montgomery, or Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania, or Camden, Burlington, or Gloucester counties in New Jersey;
- Plan to attend an accredited higher education

institution in the fall of 2008;

- Submit entry on or before December 14, 2007; and,
- Submit all materials highlighted in the Submission Checklist section.

### *Essay Question*

Beneficial is a force for good in its community. What is the most important issue facing your larger community or your specific neighborhood (e.g., the greater Philadelphia region or South Philadelphia, etc.), and how would you act as a force for good in responding to this concern? Clearly identify the issue, and be specific in describing your action plan (i.e., if you will partner with local businesses/individuals, implement a new program, create a task force, etc.).

### *What the Judges Look For*

*Content.* How well does the author answer the question and advance and support his or her thesis?

*Clarity.* How clearly does the author express his or her point, including grammar, syntax, and punctuation?

*Creativity.* Was the essay written in a creative way? Does the author present new ideas or solutions?

*continued* →

## GUIDELINES, continued

### *Essay Format*

- Essays must be written from the author's perspective.
- Submissions must be the original, unpublished work of the student.
- Submissions must be in English and be 450–550 words in length. If typewritten, please double space with 1-inch margins and type in a 12-point font.
- No names should appear on the essay itself. Submissions will be judged anonymously by a distinguished panel of community leaders and educators.

### *Faculty Sponsor*

- Any teacher, guidance counselor, or administrator may serve as a faculty sponsor.
- Your sponsor must review the essay and sign the attached Entry Form.

### *Submission Checklist*

- Completed student Entry Form (with student and faculty sponsor signatures)
- Three copies of the essay (without name)
- Completed Parent Release Form

*Note:* One entry per student. Essays will not be returned.

### *Scholarship Distribution*

- Winners to be announced in February 2008.
- To receive one-time scholarship funds, student winners must send in proof of their 2008 fall semester matriculation at an institution of higher education no later than December 2008. The Grand Prize winner must provide this proof for each of the four fall semesters.
- Scholarship checks will be distributed between May and December 2008.

## DEADLINE FOR ENTRY

# DECEMBER 14, 2007

### *Mailing Address*

Beneficial Scholars Program  
Beneficial Bank  
530 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3696  
Phone: 215-864-6175

Additional copies of the application are available at your nearest Beneficial office or at [www.thebeneficial.com](http://www.thebeneficial.com)

**Thank you—our future leaders—for your participation!**



# BENEFICIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM—ENTRY FORM

**Student** *Please Print or Type*

**Faculty Sponsor** *Please Print or Type*

Full Name

Full Name

High School Name

Position

Home Address

High School Name

Address

City (if you reside in Philadelphia, please also list your specific neighborhood/section – e.g., Olney, Germantown, Mayfair)

City

State

State

Zip Code

Zip Code

Home Phone

School Phone

Parent/Guardian Name

I certify this is an original, unpublished work.

I endorse \_\_\_\_\_  
Print/Type Student Name  
as a candidate for the Beneficial Scholars Program.

Student Signature

Faculty Sponsor Signature

**PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN RELEASE FORM**

*For students under the age of 18 at date of entry, a parent/legal guardian must initial and sign this release. Students age 18 and up at date of entry are required to initial and sign the form themselves.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify I am the parent/legal guardian of  
parent/legal guardian name

\_\_\_\_\_, and that I have the authority to act on  
student name

his/her behalf. If the attached essay is selected, I give Beneficial Bank and those acting upon their authority the right to:

- Release student's name, school, and town in which he/she lives in all promotional materials (web site, newspaper, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIAL TO ACCEPT

- Publish the essay in full or in part \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIAL TO ACCEPT

- Use any photographs, if taken, in press materials \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIAL TO ACCEPT

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)