

**DENNIS W. HOLDER SCHOLARSHIP FUND
ACCEPTING FALL 2021 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
Monday, March 1 - Friday, June 25 at 4 p.m.**



We are excited to announce that the Fall 2021 Dennis W. Holder Scholarship Fund online application process opens MONDAY, MARCH 1 until FRIDAY, JUNE 25 at 4 pm

The online application process is not complete unless all the required documents are uploaded in the correct format. If you are currently enrolled in a college, university or accredited technical school, we must receive an official transcript with final grades for Spring 2021 by 4 p.m., Friday, June 25.

If you have any questions, please call 281-385-8525, or email hfdscholarship@gmail.com

The Dennis W. Holder Scholarship Fund was established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1998 to provide scholarships for the biological or adopted children and grandchildren of Active or Retired HFD Firefighters to attend an accredited college, university or technical training school. Since its inception, the DWHSF has distributed nearly \$4 million in scholarships to nearly 6,000 eligible student recipients, each one a child or grandchild of an Active or Retired Houston Firefighter.

The scholarship fund was named for Assistant Fire Chief Dennis W. Holder, who at the time of his sudden death in 1995 was over EMS and Chairman of the Houston Firefighters Relief and Retirement Fund. Chief Holder, the last person to test for the Assistant Fire Chief position, was credited with coining the term “Emergency Medical Services” (EMS), which came to mean “physician-supervised, pre-hospital ambulance services,” by the UH’s Welcome Wilson Houston History Collaborative. EMS has become known throughout the nation to describe the system created under former Fire Chief C.R. Cook by District Chief Whitey Martin and supervised by Jr. Captains Don Gunnels and Richard Sadler. Knowing how much education meant to Chief Holder, Pension Fund executives George Cones, Mario Gallegos and Jennifer Morales joined Tommy Shelton and Linda Holder at the Cadillac Bar to discuss ways in which “the common man could get an education.” The idea of a scholarship fund was born. Former Fire Chief V.E. Rogers helped fund the process of incorporation to create a nonprofit organization separate from the Pension Fund that would honor their friend and colleague, someone who possessed a reputation for being a great public servant and a firefighters’ firefighter, a mentor to many City of Houston Firefighters.

During his lifetime, education and training was very important to Chief Holder. It is fitting that the scholarship fund established by his widow, friends and colleagues continues to ensure that the children and grandchildren of Active and Retired HFD Firefighters have an opportunity to attend the college of their choice by providing financial assistance as the cost of education continues to soar.

Thank you to all Active and Retired HFD Firefighters, whose [contributions](#) help your Brother and Sister HFD families with scholarship support for their children and grandchildren

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Stay safe and *THANK YOU* for your service