

H. BROWNING SPENCE EDUCATION AWARD NOMINATION CRITERIA

Thank you for considering nominating a young person for the **H. Browning Spence Education Awards**. These monetary awards are offered to assist with educational needs and are presented to promising youth who are preparing to exit or who have exited the local foster care system.

PURPOSE: The special role of the **H. Browning Spence Education Awards** is to assist youth ages 17 to 21 who desire to further their education or career goals but may be struggling due to financial or other circumstances. The award was created in 2010 to honor JWB Deputy Director Dr. H. Browning Spence and his twenty-four years of service to the Juvenile Welfare Board, as well as his career of dedication to the well-being of Pinellas County children. In particular, Dr. Spence was concerned for children in foster care who reached the age of 18 without being adopted or achieving permanency with relatives, otherwise known as *aging out*.

FINANCIAL AWARDS: Each year, three promising youth ages 17 to 21, who are preparing or who have already exited the Pinellas foster care system, receive a monetary award of \$1,000 each.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Youth ages 17 to 21 who are preparing to exit or who have already exited foster care and who lived or are living in Pinellas County are eligible for an award.
- Nominations must be made using the online form and received by the deadline below to be considered. Nominators are encouraged to make multiple nominations using the online form. A brief essay written by the youth being nominated must be attached (uploaded) with the online nomination form.
- Youth selected for the award are required to attend the annual JWB Cooperman-Bogue KidsFirst Awards Luncheon where they will be publically acknowledged and will receive their monetary awards during the luncheon program. Youth recipients are encouraged to give brief remarks at the event, sharing what the award means to them and reading a brief excerpt from their nomination essay.

NOMINATIONS & SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **Nomination deadline is Friday, March 2, 2018 at 5:00 PM.** The online nomination form can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#). As part of the nomination process, a brief essay written by the youth nominee must be attached (uploaded) with the online nomination form. All questions should be directed to JWB Strategic Communications Manager April Putzulu at aputzulu@jwbpinellas.org or (727) 453-5677.

REVIEW & SELECTION: All eligible nominations will be reviewed and ranked by a selection committee that includes individuals from the Spence Family and JWB Board.

AWARDS: Awards will be announced in early March 2018, at which time the nominator and recipient will be notified. All youth recipients will be honored during the **24th Annual Cooperman-Bogue KidsFirst Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 6, 2018 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park** where awards will be made during the luncheon program. Youth recipients and one guest each will receive complimentary tickets to the luncheon, along with assistance for appropriate event attire and speakers' training.