

The Loftus Scholarship for Community Engagement

Bringing the issues back to St. Thomas



Name: _____ Campus Mail#: _____
St. Thomas ID # _____ Year in School: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email address: _____

The Loftus Family Commitment

Bob and Mary Jo Loftus are generous benefactors and active supporters of the VISION program at St. Thomas. Each year they designate substantial funds for the VISION program from a charitable trust they established in 1999. Through their generosity they have provided the VISION program with a permanent endowment, which is critical to the ongoing work of the program. They are continuously engaged in promoting the goals of the VISION program.

The Loftus Scholarship for Community Engagement challenges awardees to take action by connecting your VISION experience to the greater St. Thomas community.

The Loftus Scholarship offers:

- Two \$800 Scholarships for international trip applicants
- One \$400 Scholarship for any trip
- One \$150 Scholarship for a domestic trip

To apply, you are required to write an essay about how a significant life experience has impacted your daily life. Scholarships will be awarded based on the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the essay with special consideration given to financial need.

Scholarship Process:

1) To apply:

- **Write an essay (around 400-600 words) on how you've incorporated a meaningful experience into your daily life.** Describe a past experience: a retreat, a class, a travel or volunteer experience, etc. Questions to consider: What about the experience was so meaningful? What did you see, learn, and feel? What did you do with that experience once you returned to "normal life" and how did you live those lessons out? Does it still play a part in your life right now, and how so?
- **Document your fund-raising efforts:** On another sheet of paper, describe attempts you have made to fund your trip and how you plan to raise support. Include sponsors, fund-raising activities, part-time jobs and donations.

2) During your VISION trip:

- Throughout your service and experiences on your trip, think of a possible project that could connect what you're seeing and learning to life and communities at home. It may be helpful to keep a journal of your thoughts and ideas, or gather information from others through conversations or resources at the site. Be creative!

3) After the trip:

- **If selected for a \$400 or \$800 scholarship,** you will organize a project or activity for your VISION group after you return. This action step should connect the experience of the group on the site to life and community at home. You will be required to meet with the VISION staff and student directors to discuss your experience and propose your action step in detail. After approval, you and your group will implement the project or activity *within three weeks of your return*. You will also have to write a letter of thanks to the Loftus family reflecting on your experience. If you do not complete your project within this time or make arrangements otherwise, your UST account will be billed for the amount of the scholarship.
- **If selected for a \$150 scholarship,** you will be asked to write a 750 word reflective essay on the experience, including action steps you plan to take to connect VISION experiences to everyday life. You are asked to write a reflective essay including action steps for how you are going to live out what you've experienced on your VISION trip. This will be shared with the Loftus family and should be submitted to Jacob Cunningham *within three weeks of your return*. If you do not complete your project within this time or make arrangements otherwise, your UST account will be billed for the amount of the scholarship.

To apply, please complete this form **with fundraising efforts and essay attached.**

Incomplete scholarship applications will not be considered.

Scholarship Applications will be accepted in the same way as trip applications. Please email scholarship applications at the same time as your trip application to vision@stthomas.edu, **Tuesday, October 6th from 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.**

You will be notified of an award upon trip selection.