Dear guidance counselors, principals, English teachers and journalism/yearbook advisors,

I am once again pleased to announce the 2020 Nebraska Press Women Marianne Beel Scholarship, offered to Nebraska high school students.

This $500 scholarship is dedicated to the memory of longtime NPW member Marianne Beel of Valentine. Marianne shared her love of the Sandhills through her writing and photography. Her column “Sand in My Shoes” was beloved by readers of the North Platte Telegraph. Over the years, her writing and photography appeared there and in numerous other publications.

The scholarship is open to high school seniors who have a heart for photography, writing, videography, social media and online relations for their school publication or employer. Students should both hope to study communications or a related field, and enjoy showcasing Nebraska through their work. Students in the Sandhills are given special preference, though the scholarship is open statewide.

Our winner will be invited to come to our spring conference, which will be held in Seward on April 25. Our scholarship winner will receive special recognition at our luncheon awards banquet and be able to network with professionals in their interest area. We have had a small pool of applicants in past years, so chances of receiving this opportunity may be high.

Once again, this year we ask that students send their applications, work samples, essay and transcript to [npwscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:npwscholarship@gmail.com). If there’s not enough space to attach all the files, they may use a zip file, send via Google Drive or send a follow-up email.

All materials must be emailed no later than March 28, 2020. The scholarship committee will choose a winner March 29, *so no late entries will be accepted*.

To be considered for the Marianne Beel Scholarship, an applicant must:

* Be a 2020 graduating senior from a Nebraska high school.
* Be a writer, photographer, videographer, website or social media professional in the general category of rural Nebraska (again, preference will be given to Sandhills students).
* Seek a post-secondary degree or certificate (not necessarily four-year) in a communications-related field.
* Submit three samples of subject-related work in any combination of writing, photography, video or social media posts/blogs/online content.
* Complete the application form.
* Write a 250-word essay on what living in Nebraska means to them, the beauty of Nebraska, the value of rural Nebraska, or the value of agriculture in Nebraska.
* Submit a copy of their high school transcript with current GPA.

Feel free to send questions to Tammy Bain at [npwscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:npwscholarship@gmail.com). Looking forward to hearing from your students!