

H. Browning Spence Education Award Nomination Criteria

Thank you for nominating a young person for the **H. Browning Spence Education Awards**, monetary awards to assist with the educational needs of promising youth who are preparing to exit or who have exited the local foster care system, or who are unaccompanied or homeless.

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 24 years of service to the Juvenile Welfare Board, and his dedication to the well-being of Pinellas County children.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION AWARDS: Two promising youth ages 17 to 21 will be selected to receive a monetary award to support their education in the amount of \$1,500 each.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Youth ages 17 to 21 who are preparing to exit or who have already exited foster care, or who are unaccompanied or homeless, are eligible to receive the award. Youth must have lived at one time or still be living in Pinellas County to be eligible.
- Nominations must be made using the online form that can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#). A brief essay written by the youth being nominated must be emailed as a PDF file to Communications@jwbpinellas.org. **Both the online form and youth essay must be received by the nomination deadline: Friday, October 2, 2026, at 12:00 noon.**
- All youth nominated must be available to attend the **JWB's 80th Anniversary KidsFirst Awards Luncheon on Friday, October 23, 2026, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at The Coliseum, 535 4th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL**. The top award recipients will be publicly acknowledged and receive their monetary awards/checks at this event.
- Youth recipients may be asked to give brief remarks at the luncheon event, sharing what the award means to them and reading a brief excerpt from their nomination essay. JWB will provide a public speaking coach to assist youth in preparing their brief remarks.

NOMINATION & SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **Nomination deadline is Friday, October 2, 2026, at 12:00 noon.** Both the online nomination form and brief essay written by the youth being nominated must be received the deadline. The online form can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#), and the youth essay should be saved as PDF file and emailed to Communications@jwbpinellas.org.

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 on April 10, 2023, at which time the nominator and nominee will be notified. All youth recipients will be honored during the **JWB's 80th Anniversary KidsFirst Awards Luncheon on Friday, October 23, 2026, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at The Coliseum, 535 4th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL**, where awards will be made during the event. Youth recipients and one guest each will receive complimentary tickets to the luncheon, along with assistance for appropriate event attire and speakers' training.