

# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WEST ALABAMA ELOIS ZEANAH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

## GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

*The endowment fund was created in 2015 to honor Elois Zeanah for her vision, passionate public leadership and personal contributions to the citizens of the state of Alabama, the Republican Party, the Alabama Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women.*

*The scholarship committee's goal is to award a scholarship to a student who exhibits the driving spirit of Elois Zeanah's life especially in maturity and conservative values, conceptual thinking; recognizing the problems of our generation and accepting the challenges to solve them; and motivating others with ideas to lead and encourage others to build a better state and country.*

### **The Scholarship Recipient must meet all of the following requirements:**

- Must attend a four-year college in Alabama
- Must be classified at least a college sophomore
- Must be a citizen and resident of Alabama and an Alabama high school graduate
- Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA
- Must provide a current college transcript
- Recipient may be male or female
- Financial need not be considered
- Must submit a two-page essay on assigned topic

### **Essay Topic:**

***“The most challenging issues facing my generation and how I can make a difference.”***

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WEST ALABAMA  
ELOIS ZEANAH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

*Applications for this scholarship must be typed or use black ink.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthdate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Numbers: Residence:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Alabama High School Graduate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **High School GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Alabama College & Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ **College GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_

*I attest that all of the information I have provided on this application is correct.  
I hereby give my permission to have all of the information verified.*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*The winner will be notified by the Scholarship Committee in May. The \$2,500 check will be issued to the winner's account at their college.*

**For information contact:** The Community Foundation of West Alabama  
(205) 366-0698 or [gtaylor@thecfwa.org](mailto:gtaylor@thecfwa.org)

**Deadline:** Applications must be postmarked by March 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

**Deliver to:** Elois Zeanah Scholarship Committee  
c/o Community Foundation of West Alabama  
P. O. Box 3033  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

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## **Elois Zeanah: A Life Well Lived**

Elois Zeanah was born a true spirit in Fayette, Alabama on October 25, 1941. She grew up in Tupelo, Mississippi, and her family lived two doors away from their church friends, Vernon and Gladys Presley and their son, Elvis. Elois graduated second in her class from Shannon High School. At age seventeen, with fifty dollars, a rail pass and her mother to accompany her, she traveled to Washington, D.C. to begin her career as a personnel clerk at FBI Headquarters. At work she showed intelligence, initiative and drive and began her ascent into an exciting, successful, and unique career.

Elois had exquisite secretarial skills, always an incredibly fast and accurate typist. She took dictation even faster, which was a priceless skill for any top executive. She had all the winning qualities- poise, tact, energy, initiative, trust, the ability to write better than her bosses, the ability to handle complex situations and difficult people with grace. Every place she worked, her talent would shine, and she rose quickly to executive positions regardless of the industry:

- FBI – Washington, D.C.
- NASA – Huntsville, AL
- Hanscom Air Force Base/Lincoln-Labs, – Cambridge
- NASA Electronic Research Center
- Commerce Department Assistant Secretary of Government
- White House Office of Consumer Affairs
- Assistant to Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission – Washington, D.C.

In 1977, her husband, James Zeanah, was offered a very exciting career opportunity in Los Angeles, California. It was the right career and family decision, and they located in a suburb called Thousand Oaks, where they lived for 26 years and raised two children, Derek and Kristen.

In the late 1980's, Elois entered the most challenging and ultimately the most triumphant period of her life. While her children were growing up, she came to realize our country was rapidly changing due in part to narrow interests, not only in Washington, but also at the local and state level. Elois was up to the challenge and decided she would make a difference in her community and state. So she began a multi-year campaign to recruit new and talented young candidates, organize community volunteers, and set up political issues training for citizens and candidates. As a result of her efforts, Elois served 8 years as City Council Woman, one year as Mayor and was voted Best Civic Leader.

James and Elois had always wanted to return to Alabama, and in 2003 they moved to Tuscaloosa. Elois hit the ground running and loved working in the community, statewide and national efforts. She was the most outstanding Republican Woman in Alabama serving 4 years as President, Republican Women of Tuscaloosa County; Member of County - State Republican Executive Committee; 4 years President of Alabama Federation of Republican Women; Steering Committee of the Alabama Republican Party.

Elois took her messages state-wide. She traveled tirelessly to speak to Republicans on political issues, advocated for legislation, encouraged many women to greater public leadership, and reminded them all that narrow public/private special interests are at work here too.

*Elois was a lady of grace, courage, optimism, and leadership. She believed in God, her family, and a better country.* To honor her memory, the Elois Zeanah Endowed Scholarship was set up with the Community Foundation of West Alabama in 2015. The initial interest for the scholarship came from the Republican Women of Tuscaloosa County to memorialize one of their beloved members in a perpetual way. After the initial scholarship was set up, tax-deductible contributions continue to be received from others who share an interest in seeing this fund's impact continue to grow.

The Community Foundation of West Alabama was able to offer the scholarship management resources needed. The CFWA was established in 1999 and serves West Alabama by encouraging charitable giving. Each year more than \$1 Million is distributed to about 150 various agencies through the generous support of our donors. One particular area of interest is in providing scholarships. CFWA currently manages about 10-12 scholarships, each with its unique set of requirements and purposes.

This Elois Zeanah Endowed Scholarship is open to college sophomores attending a 4-year college within the state of Alabama. You may contact the CFWA at (205) 366-0698 or [gtaylor@thecfwa.org](mailto:gtaylor@thecfwa.org) for more information.