The Derek Hughes Scholarship Program

About Derek Hughes

Born and raised in Liverpool, England, Derek Hughes began his insurance career there in 1957 with the Royal Exchange Insurance Group. He emigrated to the United States in 1961 and, after working for several insurance firms, found his way to the excess and surplus lines industry and Western World Insurance Company in 1968. He retired from Western World as CEO in 1991.

Hughes served on the board of directors of NAPSLO, a WSIA legacy association, and chaired its education committee for many years. During his tenure, he led the development of the association’s first education program, with a goal to both educate and support young talent coming into the industry and to provide ongoing professional development and education for industry veterans and regulators who often misunderstood the surplus lines market. That mission and his legacy remain at the forefront of the association and foundation’s education program today.

About the WSIA Education Foundation

The WSIA Education Foundation encourages educational development for those interested in the excess and surplus lines business, creating understanding, and overcoming the misperceptions of the excess and surplus lines market.

The Foundation’s work includes:

- Administering student-focused educational programs, symposiums and scholarship to encourage, support and reward exceptional students interested in an insurance career
- Significant university outreach to attract bright new talent to the industry
- Financial support of education programs for WSIA members
- Maintaining and improving the Associate in Surplus Lines Insurance (ASLI) designation program, which furthers the educational opportunities for members industry professionals
- Support of the A.M. Best Company’s annual review of the surplus lines segment, which is a valuable tool for the industry

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The WSIA Education Foundation established the Derek Hughes Scholarship Program to support the study of insurance and to reward exceptional students with interest in an insurance career. The Foundation annually awards up to 24 scholarships of $5,000 each. Many of the scholarships were established to recognize contributions made by industry leaders, such as Rolland L. Wiegers, Herbert W. Kaufman, Scott W. Polley, Richard E. Hull, Russell Bond, Gary E. Frohn, Michael J. Snead and Kevin A. McLaughlin.

To be eligible students must

- Be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours per semester) in an undergraduate degree program either:
  1. majoring, minoring or pursuing a concentration in Risk Management & Insurance,
  2. pursuing coursework in Risk Management & Insurance, or
  3. have work experience in the insurance industry.

- Have and maintain a 3.25 overall GPA or 3.5 major GPA.
- Be enrolled as an undergraduate student in the semester in which they receive their award. ($2,500 for each semester.)

To apply students must

Complete and submit ALL application elements electronically to WSIA. These include:

- an online application
- an essay component
- a resume conforming to the preferred format
- a reference letter from a non-family member that speaks to your individual character personally and specifically
- an electronic copy of your unofficial transcript

Previous recipients of this scholarship are eligible to receive it in subsequent years but must reapply.

Scholarship applications will be available in October and are due in March. If you have questions, please contact Christine Timmerman, chris@wsia.org.

Scholarship recipients are notified by e-mail and scholarship funds are awarded to the student's school for distribution.

For more information

Visit the WSIA Education Foundation website at www.wsia.org/foundation or contact chris@wsia.org.