



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathy Houchins - [www.abwascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:www.abwascholarships@gmail.com)

**Deadline: The first ten (10) completed eligible applications (including transcripts)**

**No applications will be accepted after March 15, 2012**

## **The Scholarship Committee of the American Business Women's Association Announces Special Scholarships**

Fort Walton Beach. The Emerald Coast Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) is funding two special scholarships through the Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund (SBMEF), the chapter announced. The (2) scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,000 each for entry as a Freshman to an accredited Technical School or Community College and (3) scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each to an accredited college.

In order to be eligible for scholarship consideration, candidates must be women who: (1) are citizens of the United States and residents of Okaloosa or Walton Counties; (2) will be college First or Second Year level in Aug. 2012; (3) are attending or have been accepted at a licensed, accredited vocational/technical or community college authorized to confer an associate degree; and (4) have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 2.5GPA or better on a 4.0 scale.

The application will be completed online and requires a biographical sketch, three (3) professional letters of reference and an official transcript. To apply, interested, eligible women should send name and email address to:

Kathy Houchins

[abwascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:abwascholarships@gmail.com)

Trustees of SBMEF serve as the selection board for these scholarships. The first twenty (20) completed eligible applications will be forwarded to the Trustees for review. A minimum of four (4) eligible applications is required to make both awards. The winners will be notified in April, 2012. The one-time scholarships are not renewable. A check will be issued jointly to the educational institution and the recipient. Funds are limited to tuition, books and fees.

### **Background**

The Emerald Coast Chapter of ABWA is part of a national network of businesswomen. Founded in 1949, ABWA is a 17,000 member strong association with Chapters and Express Networks nationwide, providing business skills training and networking opportunities for women of diverse occupations to enhance career advancement and personal development. ABWA has dedicated more than half a century to women's education and provided workplace skills and career development training for more than 565,000 members.

SBMEF is a charitable trust and public foundation. It has the same tax status as public schools, churches and community funds. The Fund is listed in the IRS "Cumulative List of Organizations" described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 – revised Oct. 31, 1974. For more information visit [www.sbmeff.org](http://www.sbmeff.org).

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