

Dear Parents and Advisors,

We are delighted that your student has shown interest in applying for the Milton Fisher Scholarship for Innovation and Creativity.

The MFS is not a traditional scholarship. While many scholarship opportunities are based on grades and scores, we understand that academic success reflects only one of many kinds of intelligence. The Milton Fisher Scholarship rewards creative problem-solving: recognizing a challenge and successfully addressing it in fresh ways.

Here are some examples of winning projects:

- a. Students in her school were largely unaware of and unconcerned by the genocide in Darfur. So Lily Yeung conceived and helped produce a documentary that countered apathy and ignorance about Darfur so effectively that it was shown to high school students around the country.
- b. Senior citizens in his community were afraid of computers. So Vadim Tsipenyuk created a program to help senior citizens at a local senior center learn to navigate the information superhighway.
- c. In his community, young people were not encouraged to embrace the arts, and artists were viewed as self-centered and unconcerned about the world. So Hugo Lara turned an abandoned storefront into a vibrant gallery and performance space for young artists & engaged those young artists in a program to deliver one hundred art kits to children in third world countries where war and poverty have disrupted their education.
- d. Bed-ridden children are often frustrated by how hard it is to do things they enjoy when they're stuck in bed. So Heather Allen, who remembered well what it was like to be bed-ridden herself, designed a stainless steel lap easel to make it easier for bed-ridden children to draw and write.
- e. Sean Dolan Hildebrandt created photographs of abandoned industrial buildings that encourage New Englanders to look at the legacies of their industrial past in fresh ways.
- f. Stephen Ross Bukowsky pioneered new designs for pulse jet engines.

We also hope that this scholarship opportunity may *INSPIRE* students to be innovative and creative as well - to come up with alternative solutions and innovative approaches to problems faced by their schools, communities, and families. Milton Fisher was someone one who did just that. He had deep interest in the roots of creativity, and for 25 years taught exercises that he developed to help people become more innovative and creative in their lives.

The application, which must be completed in English, may be challenging for some students. If the student gets discouraged or stuck, we hope that he or she will feel free to contact us. We may be able to offer some support in their efforts to complete the application if they are unable to find such support within their own school or community.

The deadline for all of the information is April 12, 2010 for the 2010 cycle of awards. The decisions will not be made until August. Everyone who applies will be informed soon after the committee decisions are complete.

We wish all students good luck. We hope that you are proud of your child's accomplishments, and we look forward to receiving his or her completed application.