

**The Jerry Laffey Legacy Award**  
Scholarship for West Monona High School Seniors  
Who Participated in Speech and Theatre

*2023*

A scholarship has been established in honor of Jerry Laffey who dedicated his professional life to the success of students in Speech and Theatre at West Monona.

Mr. Laffey (1936-2018) began his thirty-five-year career in education at West Monona High School in Onawa in 1963. He taught English, Russian, Speech, and special education. He led the Speech Program throughout his career and directed many school plays. After retiring in 1998, he continued employment for the West Monona Schools as a substitute teacher until 2016, for a combined total of 53 1/2 years of service to the young people of the community. He was a member of the West Monona Education Association, the Iowa State Education Association, and a lifetime member of the National Education Association. In 1998, he was inducted into the Iowa High School Speech Association's Hall of Fame.

This award is sponsored by his children, Becky Phipps, Brian Laffey, and Greg Laffey, and is made possible by donations made in his name in care of the West Monona School Foundation. The award will be granted to a graduating senior at West Monona who has participated in Speech and Theatre during high school and plans to continue their education at college, university, or in any specialized program in their chosen career.

The scholarship will be in the amount of \$500 and will be paid directly to the institution selected by the student for their ongoing education during their first semester. We will award the scholarship in the spring at the school's honors assembly.

Students may nominate themselves for this award and should be encouraged by their local Speech coaches. An application form is included with this description.

When applying, the student must submit an essay on the topic "How has high school speech and theatre affected my life?" The essay may include thoughts on specific experiences, ways it has grown or expanded their knowledge and self-reliance, and/or its importance to one's future.

The essay should be no more than two pages in length and double spaced. The essays will be reviewed by a team with career experience in the arts, but who are not directly connected with the West Monona Speech Program.

Applications must be received no later than April 14, 2023. Students should email their applications and essays to:

Heather Pohlman  
Coach – West Monona High School Speech Team  
heather.pohlman@westmonona.org

If additional information or clarification is needed, please contact Heather Pohlman (heather.pohlman@westmonona.org) or Randy Stanislav (randy.stanislav@westmonona.org).

## How to Apply for the Jerry Laffey Award

Your essay should be on the topic: “How has high school speech and theatre affected my life?” The essay may include thoughts on specific experiences, ways it has grown or expanded your knowledge and self-reliance, and/or its importance to your future.

Your essay should be no more than two pages double spaced. Do not put your name on your essay.

Attach your essay to an email and send it to:

Heather Pohlman

Coach – West Monona High School Speech Team

[heather.pohlman@westmonona.org](mailto:heather.pohlman@westmonona.org)

In the body of your email, include the following:

- Your name
- Your address including Street, City, State, and Zip Code
- Your phone #
- Your email address
- Name of your Planned Educational Institution and Location

Applications must be received no later than April 14, 2023.