The Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Board met on July 9, 2009, to approve new applicants for the 2009-2010 academic year. Additionally, the board members discussed the level of funding for the new academic year which is 5.5% less than the funding for last academic year. Once again, the board members were forced to make a difficult but necessary decision to reduce the value of individual awards in order to live within the financial means of the program for the 2009-2010 academic year.

As such, the War Orphans Scholarship will cover 80% of tuition/general fees for students attending a public institution during the 2009-2010 academic year. For students attending private institutions, the Board first had to set the base award amount for 2009-2010 which, according to Ohio Revised Code, is the average public amount awarded during the preceding year—this base amount is $5,500. Accordingly, the War Orphans Scholarship will cover 80% of this amount, $4,400, for students attending a private institution during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Many students have been aware that a reduction in award amounts was virtually inevitable. We have been in communication with many of them recently. All new applicants will receive information regarding the reduced funding as part of their official award letter from our office sometime in the next few weeks.

Recipients attending public institutions, who are otherwise eligible for the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG), could receive funding from both programs. Historically, such students have not received OCOG since both programs are tuition/general fees specific, and the War Orphans Scholarship has covered 100% of these costs. The War Orphans Scholarship would be applied first, followed by OCOG, not to exceed the total tuition/general fees charges. Students in a similar situation at private, non-profit institutions should be able to continue to receive the full amounts from both programs. A guidance memo updating the final changes to OCOG for the 2009-2010 academic year is forthcoming.

Eligibility rosters for the 2009-2010 academic year are currently available to financial aid personnel. The rosters have been updated to include the new applicants approved by the War Orphans Scholarship Board at its recent meeting. Students must attend full-time, and prior recipients must meet appropriate cumulative GPA requirements (minimum 2.00).

TO SUMMARIZE, FOR THE 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR, THE AMOUNT OF THE WAR ORPHANS SCHOLARSHIP IS:

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES: 80% OF TUITION/GENERAL FEES
INDEPENDENT (NON-PROFIT) AND PROPRIETARY (FOR-PROFIT) $4,400* (ANNUAL AWARD)

*$2,200 per semester OR $1,466/$1,467/$1,467 for quarters

Financial aid personnel should direct questions to the War Orphans Scholarship Program Administrator, Jathiya Abdullah-Simmons, 614.752.9528, jabdullah-simmons@regents.state.oh.us.