

## Michele Block Memorial Scholarship

The Michele Block Memorial Scholarship was created by RCA and Darifair Foods (now Rubix Foods) in 2006 to honor the memory of Michele Block. Michele Block was a long-time member of the RCA and Vice President of Marketing for Darifair Foods, one of RCA's founding sponsors. During her time on the Board of Directors, Block acted as the Associate representative. Her dedication to building the organization's successful partnership program, as well as helping to plan several annual conferences, has significantly advanced RCA's mission and contributed immeasurably to its many accomplishments.

This scholarship awards \$3,000 plus a \$1,500 travel stipend to attend the [RCA Annual Conference and Culinology Expo](#), March 23-25, 2027 in Dallas, Texas.



### Eligibility Details

- Candidates must be, or become, RCA members in order to complete this application.
- Current students and high school seniors who have been accepted at a qualified institution are eligible. Rising freshman applicants must have graduated from high school before July 1 of the year in which they will receive the scholarship.
- Proof of acceptance as a full or part-time student into an accredited college, university, culinary academy, or technical institute is required.
- Candidates must be accepted into, majoring, or completing courses in Culinology, culinary arts, or food science at a college or higher level. Preference may be given to RCA-approved Culinology degree program students.

### Materials Required to Complete this Application

- **Academic transcripts** (can be unofficial) and credits earned covering the most recently completed semester/quarter
- **Proof of acceptance**, as a full- or part-time student (minimum 6 credit hours), into an accredited college, university, culinary academy or technical institute
- **Letter of reference** (one or more) from an educator, supervisor, professional contact, or other non-family member who can speak to your experience and interest in Culinology, culinary arts, or food science
- **Essay (500 words or less)** describing what effect this scholarship will have on your education and career. In your essay, you should address: your educational goals, career goals, as well as describe why you are seeking financial assistance (a statement of financial need). Please ensure to highlight and include prior food-related extra-curricular activities, work experience, and achievements. Your essay is where we hear your unique voice, expression and perspective. Submitting unedited AI-generated work is strongly discouraged

## **Application Evaluation Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

GPA: 15%  
Essay: 35%  
Statement of Financial Need: 35%  
Letter of Recommendation: 15%

## **Timeline**

**Thursday, October 1, 2026:** Application Opens

**Sunday, December 20, 2026:** Deadline to submit completed applications and materials

**Friday, January 29, 2027:** Notification of applicants via email

**March 23 - 25, 2027:** RCA Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas

**Scholarship Funds:** Recipient will receive scholarship funds (\$3,000) via deposit at their institution's Financial Aid Office. Acceptable uses include books and supplies, lab fees and tuition expenses. Recipient must provide the address of the scholarship office or financial aid office and all relevant details.

**Expenses Eligible for Reimbursement:** Travel-related expenses are eligible for reimbursement up to \$1,500 to attend the 2027 RCA Conference, including but not limited to:

- RCA conference registration (\$170 student rate)
- Round trip airfare to and from Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) or Dallas Love Field (DAL)
- Transportation to and from the Dallas airport and conference hotel (Uber, Taxi, Lyft)
- Lodging at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel (approx. 3 days, 4 nights)
- Meals (approx. 2 lunches and 2 dinners; other meals are provided as part of conference registration)