The National Center for Suburban Studies at HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

FOUR LEAF

Celebration of Suburban Diversity

High School Diversity Essay Scholarship

Celebrating 18 Years of Student Voices

Presented by The National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University and FourLeaf Federal Credit Union

Share Your Voice, Inspire Your Community.

For 18 years, the **Celebration of Suburban Diversity High School Diversity Essay Scholarship** has encouraged Long Island students to explore the importance of diversity, inclusion, and belonging through thoughtful essays that reflect their experiences, ideas, and hopes for the future.

Made possible through the generous support of **FourLeaf,** this scholarship recognizes students whose ideas help promote understanding, respect, and stronger communities throughout Long Island.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Up to **$10,000 in scholarships and prizes** will be awarded.

First Place: $3,000	Second Place: $2,000	Third Place: $1,000

Students who attend Hofstra University may receive a matching scholarship award from the university. Students will be recognized at our annual banquet.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Students attending **public, private, charter, or parochial High Schools** on Long Island.

IMPORTANT DATES

Essays must be received by **Monday, November 2, 2026.**

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the **2026 Celebration of Suburban Diversity Banquet on November 16, 2026** at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, New York.

2026 ESSAY PROMPT

Discuss how diversity in race, culture, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity within Long Island's suburban communities has impacted you. Your essay should include a combination of research and personal perspective to explain why this issue matters, how it impacts you and the community, and how it may shape our future. We encourage students to think critically, creatively, and honestly about diversity, inclusion, identity, and community life on Long Island.

IMPORTANT ESSAY GUIDELINES

- Essays should be no longer than 500 words
- The student's name, email address, grade, and teacher's name should appear in the header of each page of the essay
- Essays must be original work and NOT artificial intelligence-generated material.
- Contest winners will also be notified by email
- Essays must be received by Monday, November 02, 2026
- Submit essays to Debbie Tinnirello at deborah.tinnirello@hofstra.edu

About the National Center for Suburban Studies

The National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University examines the social, economic, and cultural issues shaping suburban communities on Long Island and across the nation. Through research, education, and community engagement, the Center encourages thoughtful discussion about diversity, equity, sustainability, and the future of suburban life.

Questions? Please Contact:

Debbie Tinnirello
National Center for Suburban Studies
Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549
Email: deborah.tinnirello@hofstra.edu

Your Voice Matters

Your ideas have the power to inspire understanding, encourage dialogue, and help shape a more inclusive future.