



10/3/23

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your participation in the Baer Reintegration Scholarship Program's application process.

We founded the Center for Reintegration in 1998 to show the world that persons with serious mental illness are able to succeed when given the opportunity. I have been a practicing psychiatrist for the last 30 years and it is my belief that with the right combination of medication, community support and involvement, and a strong level of determination, living with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder does not mean one has to give up on their dreams. The Center for Reintegration's Baer Reintegration Scholarship Program exists for this very reason.

Every year, hundreds of applicants living with serious mental illness apply to our scholarship program in the hopes of fulfilling their educational pursuits, and finding a career that gives them stability, meaning, and joy. We have an independent panel of judges made up of fellow psychiatrists, those with lived experience, psychiatric rehab professionals, and others. In order for an application to be reviewed by our judges, it must include a prescribing authority's recommendation; to ensure the applicant's wellness and confirm their diagnosis.

As a psychiatrist who continues to work in the field, I know the limitations some of us may face, from far too many patients, email firewalls, HIPAA concerns, and many obstacles in between. As a colleague who has dedicated their life to the improvement of the lives of persons with mental illness, I implore you to take the 5-10 minutes to help your patient complete their application. Without your input, all of the work they put in to this effort will be immediately rejected. Every year dozens of worthy applicants are disqualified due to a missing prescribing authority recommendation. It is the leading cause of an application's disqualification.

Please work with us to be a part of this process. We are dedicated to helping you verify your patient's diagnosis in any way we can. Should you have any questions, special circumstances, or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Scholarship Coordinator, Bevin Reilly LSW, at baerscholarships@reintegration.com.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Dr. Ralph Aquila
Executive Director
Center for Reintegration