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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **2019 IMUA Scholarship Program Applications Available**

**Naperville, IL** — The City Naperville, in partnership with the Illinois Municipal Utilities Association (IMUA), is again offering a scholarship competition program for eligible high school seniors, whose parents or legal guardians are residential customers of the Naperville Electric Utility. Each eligible applicant is asked to submit an application and an essay of 500 words or less addressing their choice of one of four utility-related questions.

The top four vote-getters in this year's essay competition will receive a finalist certificate and a \$1,000 scholarship award check from IMUA. For more information and an application, visit [http://www.imea.org/imua\\_scholarship.aspx](http://www.imea.org/imua_scholarship.aspx). The deadline for submitting applications and essays is Friday, March 8, 2019. Winners will be announced in April. Since it began, the scholarship program has awarded more than \$43,000 to 84 students from 29 different IMUA member communities statewide.

The program has a dual purpose: to promote and recognize scholastic achievement and to create greater awareness among young adults of the many issues facing consumers and public power municipalities today.

"Today's energy providers, including municipally-owned and operated utilities, face challenges that warrant creative and innovative solutions," Naperville Electric Utility Director Mark Curran said. "Creating greater awareness of these issues among tomorrow's leaders can be the first step in helping to determine effective, long-term solutions, both now and into the future."

"Since its inception in 2000, IMUA's scholarship program has proven to be a very popular and successful program for IMUA, its members and the communities they serve," said Kevin M. Gaden, President & CEO of the IMUA. "This program is another example of how municipally-owned and operated utility systems can help return value to their communities while at the same time, provide a measure of financial assistance and support to those students who wish to pursue a college education."

For more information about the scholarship program, contact IMUA's DeeDee Bunch at (217) 789-4632 or [dbunch@imea.org](mailto:dbunch@imea.org).

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**About IMUA**

Organized in 1948, IMUA is a statewide trade association which represents the unified interests of, and provides services to, 50 municipalities which operate their own electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and wastewater treatment systems.

**About Naperville**

Located 28 miles west of Chicago, Naperville, Ill., is home to approximately 145,000 people. This vibrant, thriving city consistently ranks as a top community in the nation in which to live, raise children and retire. The city is home to acclaimed public and parochial schools, the best public library system in the country, an array of healthcare options and an exceptionally low crime rate. Naperville has ready access to a variety of public transportation, housing and employment options. The city's diversified employer base features high technology firms, retailers and factories, as well as small and home-based businesses. Residents also enjoy world-class parks, diverse worship options, the opportunity to serve on several City boards and commissions, a thriving downtown shopping and dining area, a renowned outdoor history museum known as Naper Settlement and an active civic community. For more information, please visit our website at [www.naperville.il.us](http://www.naperville.il.us).