



August 27, 2025

To: Commissioners, Port Directors/Managers
From: Eric ffitich, Executive Director, WPPA
Subject: WPPA Winter Scholarship Opportunity

WPPA Members:

With the arrival of fall, another important WPPA deadline is upon us: **the application deadline for the WPPA Winter Scholarship, with a request that any applications be sent to Mandy via email by 3:00 pm on Friday, October 3rd at the latest: mlill@washingtonports.org.**

Based on the overwhelmingly positive response we received, we are once again bringing back the WPPA Winter Scholarship, with a focus on mid-career port professionals seeking continuing education and professional development in their port-related field. Applicants must be a current port employee, and the focus of the educational work supported by the scholarship should be in a field related to their port work. Please be sure to share this email and attached application with your port staff so they are aware of the opportunity.

This is exciting, as the return of this scholarship responds to suggestions from members, was endorsed by our Executive Committee, and acknowledges the demand we know exists for a skilled and “upskilling” workforce in the industries our members’ support.

As a further reminder, to support this change we are holding an auction at this year’s Annual Meeting to help raise funds for the WPPA Educational Foundation. We are currently seeking donations for the auction. We’d love it if your port could make a donation or maybe you have a port tenant that would be willing to donate. You can find the request letter and donation form on our [website by clicking here.](#)

So, to recap:

- Please share this email with your port staff
- Please submit any applications for the WPPA Winter Scholarship to Mandy Lill by Oct 3, 2025
- Please consider donating an item for the auction in November!

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in the critical work of Washington Ports!

-Eric f. and the WPPA team