



October 12, 2026

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 Monday, November 2nd 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 will continue to ask port members, associate members, and any friends of the WPPA to consider making a charitable contribution to the WPPA Educational Foundation. Details on how to contribute are included in this email and in the [“Scholarships and Awards”](#) section of our website.

So, to recap:

- Please share this email with your port staff
- Please submit any applications for the WPPA Winter Scholarship to Mandy Lill by November 2nd, 2026
- If you can, and if you have the resources to support this investment in our port family, please consider making a contribution to our WPPA Educational Foundation. (NOTE: The WPPA Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3), private, nonprofit organization and donations are tax deductible. Receipts will be provided for all donations. The WPPA Educational Foundation is registered as a Charitable Organization with the Washington State Secretary of State’s Office.)

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

-Eric f. and the WPPA team