

CII – Kirby Family Legacy Scholarship Program

At the 66th Annual General Meeting, The Council of International Investigators (CII) proudly announced the formation of the CII-Kirby Family Legacy Scholarship Program designed to assist CII members and direct family members in education at the collegiate level. The program was named in honor of the Edward R. Kirby family of Illinois, USA for over 40 years of contributions to The Council of International Investigators.

Three members of the Kirby family served as officers and directors of CII. Edward R. Kirby was the President (1978) and Board Chairman (1979). Steven L. Kirby was also President (1996) and Chairman of the Board (1997). Steve also acted as Executive Director from 2013 to 2020. Jim Kirby served as President in 2007 and chaired the Board for two years, 2008 and 2009. Family members served as Editors of the Councilor and Focus International, the Journal of CII.

Jim Kirby was awarded the Meritorious Service Award in 2003 and Steve Kirby was given the same honor in 2019. Steve Kirby was also twice named the International Investigator of the Year in 1997 and 2008.

The family hosted Annual General Meetings in Chicago in 1978, 1999, and 2007. They have also hosted and assisted hosting several regional meetings.

Family matriarch, Elizabeth “Betty” Kirby was a fixture at CII meetings and events for over 30 years.

Funding: The initial funding of the program was kicked off by a generous donation US\$10,000 by longtime member Norm Willox and his wife Karen. Additional funding comes from donations by members and from the general funds of the Council. In order to incentivize members and friends to contribute, Norm and Karen have also agreed to match up to an additional US\$10,000 any donations made this year (2020). A separate money market bank account for scholarship funds has been established and under the control of the Executive Director. All donations will be used solely to scholarship recipients. Any expenses incurred will be paid for out of the CII general fund account.

Awards: A scholarship committee (Committee), which will be appointed annually by the President and approved by the Executive Board, will determine the award(s) for a particular calendar year. All decisions of the Committee will be final. While there is no cap on the number of scholarships awarded, the total amounts granted by the Committee will not exceed 25% of the balance in the scholarship account at the time the awards are announced. No single scholarship will exceed US\$1,500. No individual will be eligible for more than two awards for the life of the fund. Additional rules are being promulgated.

Criterion: Applicants for scholarship must be either a CII member in good standing or direct family member (spouses, sons, daughters, grandchildren, stepchildren) of a CII member in good standing, who are currently enrolled in a university in at least the associate level. Candidates for scholarship will be asked to submit a written request to the committee, to be received no later than August 31st. The request should include the applicant’s name; relationship to CII; amount requested; name of University; field of study; and any other relevant information for The Committee to consider, along with 2 independent reference letters attesting to the applicant’s character. The Committee will announce the awards at the Annual General Meeting and paid to the applicant no later than October 31st. Additional rules and regulations are currently being promulgated.