

Michelle Zajdel Butterfly Endowment

The Michelle Zajdel Butterfly Endowment was established in November of 2012 in memory of Michelle Zajdel. Michelle was a loving, loyal, and intelligent individual who touched the lives of all who knew her. She was a beloved daughter and sister… spirited student and dancer… avid reader and dreamer… and a budding butterfly whom passed away at the young age of 15 on July 14, 2008.

Shortly after her death, Michelle’s family began to notice that butterflies were often near them, even resting on her sister’s arm and appearing in number at her memorial. Her family came to believe that this was not a coincidence and the butterfly became a symbol of Michelle. And while she did not have time to develop her beautiful, bright wings while here with us, her family has created the Michelle Zajdel Butterfly Endowment in her memory and in the hope that other young people will be assisted in gaining theirs.

This scholarship will not go to the usual scholarship candidates, but to the less likely. This will go to the one who has problems and stumbles and falls sometimes, but always gets up, brushes themselves off and is stronger for the experience. This will go to the student that is afraid, but faces those fears with an endless strength and determination. It will be given to a person who believes in themselves even when the world doubts them and stays true to themselves regardless of the how difficult that challenge is. Michelle was a beam of sunshine in a dark place and the Zajdel family would like to share her rays with another student that could eventually help light the world.

This Endowment income shall be used to provide support for books, lab fees, travel or other educational expenses for undergraduate students who have overcome adversity in their lives before or during college including, but not limited to, bullying, depression, illness etc. The scholarship amount is $500 which will be given annually.

To apply for this endowment, applicants must meet the following criteria:

 1. An Undergraduate student at the University of Pittsburgh

2. Submit a personal statement describing one instance or multiple instances during your life, where you endured and overcame some type of adversity.

Applicants should complete the attached application and return to Matthew Richardson on the 6th floor of the William Pitt Union, or via email to mrichardson@pitt.edu. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, April 21st**. Applications will be reviewed by a small committee of students and faculty. All applicants’ personal information will be kept 100% anonymous from the committee and student body.

Michelle Zajdel Butterfly Endowment

 Application

First Name Last Name

Email Phone Number

Major

Year in School

Please submit a personal statement describing one instance or multiple instances during your life, where you endured and overcame some type of adversity.

Any questions can be directed to Matthew Richardson, mrichardson@pitt.edu