

## INFAITH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WOMENLEAD SCHOLARSHIP



**WomenLead** recognizes the need for diverse leadership in ministry, nonprofits and civic organizations and seeks to accelerate the extraordinary leadership of diverse women of faith to lead change by using their talents to *educate, advocate, and activate*.

Two educational scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 will be awarded annually to women of Christian faith seeking a Masters or Doctoral degree that will prepare them to serve in public service, non-profit leadership, and/or in Christian ministry.

### Eligibility

Women of diverse backgrounds (race/ethnicity, age, denomination, nationality, citizenship) eager to lead through bold action, innovative vision and faith-inspired passion are encouraged to apply.

Eligible candidates for the scholarship should meet the following criteria:

- Enroll or be enrolled in an accredited U.S. theological seminary or post-graduate institution.
- Be in good academic standing with a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Demonstrate active Christian faith and practice, and/or a personal call to ministry.
- Exhibit leadership with a commitment to influence systems and communities for broad impact.
- Be involved in civic engagement, social change, and service and demonstrate a history of involvement.
- Commit to a career in Christian ministry, government agencies, public and private educational institutions, nonprofit, philanthropic, public health, and/or advocacy organizations.

The ideal candidate(s) will:

- Demonstrate the drive to be an extraordinary leader and the capacity to make a difference on a broad scale to impact systems level change.
- Articulate how their faith has influenced, shaped and/or inspired them to educate, advocate and activate their passion for justice and change.
- Express a vision and spirit of possibility.
- Give clear, concrete examples of how they have led and/or implemented a course of action to create change in their community.

### Program Benefits

The scholarship provides:

- Financial support.
- Recognition of outstanding potential as a leader in the faith community for the public good.
- Affirmation of faith, values and ideals.
- Access to a network of women leaders of change.

Through the scholarship women will increase their leadership capacity through their career and/or educational pursuits that will enhance their knowledge and skills and build their networks better equipping them to effectively lead change. We hope that through their learning experience women are inspired by possibility and are pushed to vision big and act boldly to maximize and achieve change with and for their communities.

The WomenLead scholarship is made possible through an InFaith Field of Interest Fund, a collaborative fund supported by InFaith donors to serve our shared community as well as through contributions made through the *WomenGive Together* giving circle as part of the *WomenGive* Workshop series.

### **Scholarship Awards**

Applicants of the scholarship award will be notified by InFaith by the end of July. Scholarship awards are sent directly by InFaith to the educational institution where the recipient will attend. It is intended that this scholarship award provide financial assistance that is not otherwise covered by available resources or other financial aid to the applicant. This financial award may be used to defray expenses for tuition, room and board, books, laboratory expenses and/or other related educational expenditures.

### **Selection of Recipients**

Scholarship recipients are determined by an InFaith scholarship committee. We recognize and value the need for diverse leadership. Women from underrepresented backgrounds are encouraged to apply. International and permanent residents attending a U.S. college or university may apply. Please read more about our past scholarship recipients at [infaithfound.org/2018-infaith-scholarship-recipients](http://infaithfound.org/2018-infaith-scholarship-recipients).

### **Application Overview and Deadline**

Application and required supplemental materials will be available online March 1 and will be due **April 30**. All scholarship applications and materials must be submitted online by the deadline – no exceptions will be made. The application is available at [inFaithFound.org/newsgrants/scholarships](http://inFaithFound.org/newsgrants/scholarships).

### **About InFaith & the WomenGive inFaith campaign**

The scholarship program is administered by InFaith Community Foundation, a national charity with a mission to serve donors, spread joy and change lives. Through InFaith, giving is customized to each donor's charitable interests and financial circumstances. InFaith is a proven steward of these gifts, earning consistently high ratings from Charitable Navigator and GuideStar for sound fiscal management, transparency and commitment to excellence. Together with donors, InFaith now grants more than \$28 million annually to charities serving local, national and global communities. To learn more, visit [InFaithFound.org](http://InFaithFound.org).

*WomenGive* inFaith unites women nationwide in using their talents to *educate, advocate, and activate* bold change for women and girls. Together women empower one another in their generosity and passion about achieving long-term change in their lives, their families, and communities. We collaborate with individuals, churches, community organizations, foundations and Thrivent Financial to deliver charitable giving workshops, award the WomenLead scholarship and raise women's voices around domestic violence. To learn more, visit at [inFaithFound.org/WomenGive](http://inFaithFound.org/WomenGive).

### **Questions?**

Questions about this scholarship may be directed to Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby, Women's Philanthropy Associate, at [Consuelo.Gutierrez-Crosby@inFaithFound.org](mailto:Consuelo.Gutierrez-Crosby@inFaithFound.org) or (800) 365-4172.

## Application Instructions and Questions

Please read the instructions carefully and ensure that all the required information is received by the deadline. Applicants should complete an online application, providing answers to the questions below. Applicants will also need to submit additional materials to InFaith outlined in the section below. **Incomplete or Late applications will not be considered.**

### Applicant Information

- Contact information: Name, address, date of birth, phone, email;
- Demographic information: gender, race/ethnicity
- School/degree information: school name, GPA, major, graduation date
- Financial aid information

### Short Answer and Text Questions

- How did you hear about the scholarship?
- Have you received a scholarship from InFaith? When? Name of scholarship?
- Why are you uniquely qualified for this award? (300 words)
- What are your educational goals? What type of program/studies do you intend to pursue or are pursuing? What do you hope to do upon completion of your studies? What are your career objectives? (300 words)

### Additional Submitted Materials – to be received by the deadline of April 30.

- **Transcript** - Please ensure that InFaith receives a copy of your most recent transcript (unofficial transcript is acceptable) showing a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- **Resume** - A resume that includes: work and educational history, school, church, and community service, honors, awards, and leadership.
- **Online Recommendation Form** – Please forward the online recommendation form to two individuals. Link to online recommendation form: [InFaithFound.org/recommendation](http://InFaithFound.org/recommendation).

### Essay Questions

1. As a woman of Christian faith how have you used your talents to educate, advocate, and activate? What change are you trying to make in your community? What is your vision for a better world? Please give an example of how you implement/live out that vision to achieve sustainable long-term change. (Essay length max 500 words)
2. Faith shapes how one sees the world. It inspires bold action, innovative vision, and faith-inspired passion. How has your faith awakened your passion for justice and inspired your vision of what is possible? (Essay length max 500 words)

Submitted essays will be judged on spirit, clarity of thought, grammar and spelling, and will be the property of InFaith.

Note: InFaith may use submitted essays in InFaith communications to promote its missions and this scholarship in the future.