

WOMEN EVERYWHERE: PARTNERS IN SERVICE PROJECT, INC.
2012 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

The WOMEN EVERYWHERE (WE) College Scholarship Program awards scholarships of \$2,000 to participants in the WOMEN EVERYWHERE Educational Projects Day who are entering their first year of college. Students must plan to enroll in college full-time in the upcoming school year following graduation in order to qualify.

The scholarships are awarded to students based upon demonstrated involvement in and commitment to the community (high school and/or home community), academic achievement, and a written essay. **Please read the instructions thoroughly before completing and sending in your materials. A complete application must include the following items:**

1. A completed and signed WOMEN EVERYWHERE college scholarship application form which is included with your application package;
2. A typed essay of no fewer than 500 and no more than 750 words, double-spaced. Please see the essay guidelines for detailed information;
3. An official high school transcript or photocopy of an official transcript; and
4. Two letters of recommendation from high school teachers. Please submit letters from teachers of substantive courses taken in your junior or senior year. In place of one of those letters, you may substitute a letter of recommendation from a community official who knows you through your work on a community-based or faith-based project, provided that your contact with that person is extensive enough, for at least one year, so that he or she is able to describe the project(s) in which you participated and to comment upon your interests, skills, level of commitment and character. The community reference must include that person's contact information and the organization with which he or she is affiliated.

Your completed application and essay must be addressed to and received by the:

WOMEN EVERYWHERE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
c/o Michelle Kohut
Corboy & Demetrio, P.C.
33 N. Dearborn Street, 21st Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Applications must be received no later than **Wednesday, April 11, 2012.**

*FAXED APPLICATION MATERIALS (INCLUDING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS, ETC.) WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED. ANY ITEMS RECEIVED AFTER THE DATE NOTED ABOVE WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS **CANNOT** BE CONSIDERED.*

**WOMEN EVERYWHERE: PARTNERS IN SERVICE PROJECT, INC.
2012 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

WOMEN EVERYWHERE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**c/o Michelle M. Kohut
Corboy & Demetrio, P.C.
30 N. Dearborn Street, 21st Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Tel: (312) 346-3191**

Instructions: Please answer each question completely and accurately. Where necessary, use additional pages to complete your answers, noting on the pages the number of the question to which you are responding. If a question is not applicable, please write 'N/A' on that line. Please attach your essay to this application. **Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.**

1. PERSONAL:

Last Name/First Name/Middle

Current Address: City/State/Zip Code/Telephone #

Permanent Address: City/State/Zip Code/Telephone #

Please checkmark where you would like any award notification sent to you:
_____ Current Address _____ Permanent Address _____ Other (provide address below):

Parents/guardians: _____

Current Address: City/State/Zip Code/Telephone #

2. EDUCATION

College/University that you expect to attend: _____

Expected date of graduation: _____

High School(s): _____

3. AWARDS and HONORS

List any awards, honors, scholarships, and/or prizes that you have received:

4. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List extra-curricular activities (school and community based) in which you have participated:

5. HOBBIES, SPECIAL INTERESTS

List your hobbies or special interests:

6. OTHER INFORMATION: We want to encourage everyone to apply. While your grades matter, you may have participated in other kinds of activities that reflect a positive character and commitment to helping others. Please tell us about them, and/or discuss any other facts or circumstances (financial or otherwise) which you think WOMEN EVERYWHERE should know or which might be useful in evaluating your application, using additional pages if necessary.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY: All information contained in, and submitted with, this application will be treated as confidential except as necessary to verify information.

8. SIGNATURE: I understand that the WOMEN EVERYWHERE College Scholarship Program will rely on the information contained in this application. The above statements are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: _____ Signature of applicant: _____

WOMEN EVERYWHERE 2012 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY GUIDELINES

THIS YEAR'S THEME: WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

We thank you for your interest in applying for a WE college scholarship. As part of your application, we ask you to write about a woman in government who falls within one of several categories of government service. As noted below, this theme covers the fields of legislators, secretaries of state, heads of state, and leaders in developing countries. Your subject may hold office currently or may be retired, and from any background. She may also be young or older, living or deceased, and from Illinois, the U.S.A. or anywhere else on this vast planet earth. Please choose your essay subject from one of the following four categories:

1. **SECRETARIES OF STATE:** Please see attached narrative for examples of remarkable women who have influenced national and international policy and helped reinforce their country's prominence in foreign relations global issues.
2. **LEGISLATORS:** Please see attached narrative for examples of accomplished women elected to public office who, with honor and distinction, have served their communities, worked to pass fair laws, and fostered the dialogue about issues relevant to democracy.
3. **HEADS OF STATE:** Please see attached narrative for examples of women who have been elected to the highest office of their countries and, possibly against all odds, were able to institute significant improvements for their citizenry.
4. **LEADERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:** Please see attached narrative for examples of women in countries outside and even far from the United States who have demonstrated courage in advocating for the equal rights of women (and minorities) to be educated, work for equal pay, participate in government, speak freely, and generally control their destinies to the same extent as their male counterparts.

For additional information on influential women in these different fields, please try visiting www.worldpulse.com; www.infoplease.com; www.voanews.com (voice of America); and www.thewhitehouseproject.org. Additional materials and websites highlighting the accomplishments of women in the fields of government service listed above may be found through a search on www.google.com for 'women legislators', 'female secretaries of state'; 'women in developing countries', 'female heads of state', and the very general 'women in government' topic which, though broad in scope, will give you good ideas and various links to subtopics that may interest you.

In your essay, which should be no fewer than 500 and no more than 750 words, and typed and double-spaced, please tell us the following:

1. Briefly describe your subject's philosophy of life, accomplishments, and the difficulties she overcame to survive hardship and achieve her goals.
2. Describe your subject's impact on the particular community she served or serves and/or on the broader public arena, and what she symbolizes for young women.
3. Tell us why you selected your subject.
4. Tell us how your subject's life story and accomplishments have affected you.

**HERE ARE EXAMPLES OF WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT
IN EACH OF THE FOUR CATEGORIES:**

1. SECRETARIES OF STATE

Women in government have really made great progress in the position of Secretary of State in our country. The United States Secretary of State is responsible for communicating with all of the other countries in the world on behalf of the United States government. We have had three women appointed to this office. They each brought unique perspectives to the position and they certainly came from different backgrounds, but they also share some common qualities. Rather than do the research for you, we would like you to think about certain questions if you choose to write about any of these great women.

Madeleine Albright was the first woman to become a United States Secretary of State. She was appointed by U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1996 and was unanimously confirmed by a U.S. Senate vote of 99-0. She served in the position of Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001. Albright has a fascinating personal life story – you can read about how she was raised in the Catholic faith and why that happened and how she much later learned her parents were Jewish and that many of her Jewish relatives in Czechoslovakia had died in World War II, including three of her grandparents. Although Ms. Albright was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, she grew up in Denver Colorado. Find out what took her there. Ms. Albright obtained a great education – find out where she went to school and what she studied. Do you think that prepared her to become a future Secretary of State? Ms. Albright has a Chicago connection – find out what she did when she was here. Eventually, she moved to Washington DC and got even more education. She even took a class with a professor who would later be her boss at the U.S. National Security Council – find out who that was. Do you think that played any part in her life when she became a U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations? Do you think having the experience of being an ambassador had any role in Ms. Albright becoming Secretary of State? There's a very special story about Ms. Albright and her collection of jewelry – this story is too good to just tell you here, but here's a clue: Madeleine Albright's autobiography is entitled "Read My Pins"!

Condoleezza Rice was the first African American woman to serve as United States Secretary of State. She was appointed by U.S. President George W. Bush. She served in the position of Secretary of State from 2005 to 2009. Her name, Condoleezza, is from a music-

related term, *con dolcezza*, which in Italian means “with sweetness.” How beautiful is that! Do you have a unique name? Can you relate to some of the challenges people with unique names sometimes face? Rice is a classic “over-achiever” in the best sense – practically everything she did she did better than anyone and she has really thrived on pushing herself to do even better. She was born in 1954 in racially segregated Alabama, but in 1967 her family moved to Denver, Colorado (what a coincidence that Madeleine Albright spent time growing up there only 10 years earlier!). Rice earned her college degree from the University of Denver when she was only 19! She earned a masters degree the very next year, and when she was 26, she earned a doctorate degree in political science. You will be fascinated by Rice’s career path and who she meets on the way to becoming Secretary of State. Here’s a hint: she became the first female, first minority and youngest person to hold the position of “Provost” at Stanford University. Triple wow! But, first step: find out what the position of provost is. Next step: find out what she accomplishes as Provost. Does music play a role in your life? Find out what music means in Rice’s and what doors were opened to her because of her interest in music. Finally, think about the flexibility Ms. Rice has shown before and after serving as Secretary of State – her diamond bright career has had many facets!

Hillary Rodham Clinton is our current Secretary of State. She was appointed by U.S. President Barack Obama. She has served in the position of Secretary of State since 2009. Like President Obama, Secretary Clinton has a Chicago connection. She grew up here in Park Ridge, a suburb north of the City. When you do research on Ms. Clinton, you will undoubtedly call her an over-achiever too! She earned award after award in the academic area, but dig a little deeper and see what in her life helped form her commitment to different social issues. Is there an issue of social justice that really interests you? How did your interest arise and what will you do about it? Ms. Clinton, for example, has been interested in women’s issues and even headed the American Bar Association’s Commission on Women’s Issues. What impact did meeting Bill Clinton have on Hillary Rodham’s life – for better or worse or for both?! Is there somebody who has had a major effect on your life? What do you think of Hillary Clinton as our First Lady? Think about the different turns that Ms. Clinton’s career has taken before she got to the White House and after. Like Ms. Rice, Secretary Clinton had to be flexible. She became a U.S. Senator and made a run for the presidency, but even when she lost, she was still committed to public service and so it is no surprise that President Obama offered the position of Secretary of State to such an experienced individual!

2. *LEGISLATORS*

Women in the United States have fought long and hard for centuries, even up to right now, to become candidates for and get elected to offices in local and state government and in Congress. Many of them struggled against almost insurmountable odds, including extreme poverty, segregation and other forms of gender and racial discrimination, and lack of access to financial, political and other resources available to their male counterparts during these same centuries. Learning about their struggles and successes can inspire young women to hang on to their dreams, feel empowered, and head directly toward the challenges that are ahead. Those of us in older generations are counting on the youth of our country to learn and train well, speak out, take chances, and be ready to help run the country, work alongside us, and carry the flag for us when we step aside. Below are examples of two determined women who achieved their goals and thereby helped to make their communities and our country stronger.

Patsy T. Mink, born in 1927 as Patsy Matsu Takemoto in the Hawaii territory (Hawaii not then having achieved statehood), was the first woman of color to serve in the U. S. Congress. Mink distinguished herself very early as a hard worker intent on becoming well educated and training herself for leadership positions. She was the valedictorian of her high school graduating class, obtained a degree in zoology and chemistry in 1948, and then became a lawyer, graduating from the University of Chicago in 1951. After only three years in her law practice, Mink already had become active in politics, founding the Oahu Young Democrats in 1954. She then was elected to the Hawaii senate where she served two terms. In 1959 when Hawaii became a state, Mink sought the nomination for the state's at-large seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. She failed in this quest, but that was not the last the public would hear from her. In 1964, Mink ran again for Hawaii's newly created second seat. She succeeded not with help from the Democratic Party regulars who did not like her independence from their political agenda, but through her grass roots campaign efforts. She was again victorious in later campaigns despite efforts of the local party to defeat her in the primary by supporting two other female candidates in order to dilute the vote for Mink. During her long service, Mink lobbied for childcare bills and legislation providing for bilingual education and Head Start. In the late sixties, she spoke up against the Vietnam War; in the seventies she was an early and fierce advocate for women's rights, gender equality, and the elimination of gender stereotypes in school books. Mink can also be credited for helping enact the Women's Education Equity Act which granted funding for girls' programs and job opportunities, and she was instrumental in the passage of Title IX prohibiting sex discrimination in athletics and at schools receiving federal funds. Recognizing at one point in her legislative career that there were only eight women in Congress, Mink said that "...I had a special burden to bear to speak for all women because they didn't have people who could express their concerns for them adequately. So, I always felt that we were serving a dual role in Congress, representing our own districts and, at the same time, having to voice the concerns of the total population of women in the country." Patsy Mink died in 2002 following a bout of pneumonia.

Barbara Jordan was born in Houston, Texas in 1936 to a Baptist minister and homemaker. Even as a child and young adult, Jordan stood out as a student, becoming a star debater in high school. Public office called to her, and although she failed in her first try for a seat in the Texas Senate, Jordan won her second senate race and took office in 1966. During her six years as a senator, Jordan accumulated a number of firsts: leadership of several key committees and election to the position of 'president pro tempore'. She wrote and pushed for passage of bills that helped improve conditions for the poor and minorities and co-sponsored the bill extending the deadline for states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. In 1972, Jordan was elected to Congress as the first African American to represent Texas and the first African American woman to represent a southern state. She came ready to use her skills as a lawyer, orator and civil rights activist. Jordan's service as a state legislator and member of Congress led her to the Democratic National Convention in 1976 where she delivered the keynote address. In that historic speech, she noted, correctly, that her status as a black female in that role made the speech special and different from any keynote speech ever before given. Although she served only a short time in Congress, Barbara Jordan made an indelible imprint on that body and on the public at large with her powerful speech during the 1974 impeachment proceedings of then President Richard Nixon. In her strong, deep voice, Jordan eloquently announced that "My faith in the Constitution is whole; it is complete; it is total. And I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction, of the Constitution." In 1978

Jordan retired from Congress, became a professor and continued her involvement in the national political scene, speaking out against injustices. She received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton. It is no wonder that Jordan is the subject of a 'biopic' that well-known actress Viola Davis hopes to produce with her husband. Sadly, Jordan fell victim to multiple sclerosis and died far too soon of pneumonia. So the public could say goodbye to her, she lay in state at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library at the University of Texas. Her papers are archived at Texas Southern University, her alma mater. The American public and history itself are better for the presence and contributions of Barbara Jordan.

Other influential women legislators include African American Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm who ran for president in the 1972 Democratic primaries; Illinois Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, a fierce advocate for women's equality; Sandra Day O'Connor, appointed by President Reagan in 1981 to the U. S. Supreme Court, and an Arizona state legislator prior to that time; NY Democrat Nydia Velasquez, the first Puerto Rican woman in Congress in 1992 and still serving; Florida Republican Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, the first Hispanic woman and Cuban American in Congress in 1989 and still serving; and Geraldine Ferraro, a third-term NY Democrat in 1984 when selected as the first female vice-presidential candidate on a major party's national ticket.

3. *HEADS OF STATE*

Angela Merkel is the first female Chancellor of Germany and has held this position since 2005. She is also Chairman of the Christian Democratic Union. Before entering politics in 1989, Merkel studied to be a physical chemist and learned to speak Russian fluently. She is the first Chancellor to have a background in natural sciences, as her predecessors had come from backgrounds in law, history, business or the military. While she was a student at the University of Leipzig, Merkel was involved in a project—the reconstruction of a local ruin—which the students had initiated to create their own club and recreation facility on campus. This initiative was unprecedented and at first resisted by the school; however, Merkel and the students worked to get the backing of the local Social Unity Party of Germany and eventually it was permitted. After the Reunification of Germany, Merkel served as the Federal Minister for Women and Youth, and later as Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. She took on several leadership roles, including President of the European Council, and she was the second woman (after Margaret Thatcher) to chair the G8 Summit. As the European Union and Europe struggle with the financial crisis today, Merkel plays a central role and has often been referred to as “the decider”. She has taken progressive stances, including supporting Islamic education and classes for Islamic students in German schools. Chancellor Merkel has been awarded many honors including the Vision for Europe Award for her contribution towards greater European integration and the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2011. She also has been on Forbes List of the “World's 100 Most Powerful Women” for 5 years, and last year was number 4 on this list.

Other current female heads of state include Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir of Iceland, President Pratibha Patil of India and Prime Minister Julia Gillard of Australia.

4. LEADERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Sheikh Hasina has been the Prime Minister of Bangladesh since her 2008 term. She also held this position from 1996 to 2001. Hasina has been the president of a major political party, the Bangladesh Awami League, for over 30 years. An early starter, she was actively involved in student politics in college and was elected as the chief of the Student's Union of Eden Girls College, the leading women's college in Bangladesh. During the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, Hasina was held under house arrest with her family, and a few years later, her mother, brother and almost her entire family were tragically assassinated by angry army officers and some freedom fighters. Hasina lived in exile in India, and almost 10 years later was allowed to return to her homeland of Bangladesh. She was elected almost unanimously as president of the Awami League while she was in exile. After her return she became the leader of the opposition party in Bangladesh, pushing for government transparency and accountability during her country's first democratic elections in 1991. Prime Minister Hasina's political achievements include a successful treaty between India and Bangladesh concerning a water barrage and a peace treaty between tribal rebels in the mountainous region of Bangladesh. Her political career has not been without controversy, however; in 2007 Hasina was accused of bribery, extortion and even murder. She later overcame some medical problems and won the 2008 election with a landslide victory. Prime Minister Hasina is a member of the Council of Women World Leaders, an International network of current and former women presidents and prime ministers, whose mission is to mobilize female leaders globally for collective action on issues of critical importance to women's development.

Fawzia Koofi is the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Afghanistan and an ardent supporter of women's rights in her country. She could potentially be the first female president of Afghanistan. Koofi has survived intimidation by the Taliban and has spoken out against them and the dangerous practices against women in her homeland. She overcame a difficult childhood. When she was an infant, her mother initially left her outside to die because girls are typically not valued as much as sons and her father was displeased that she was not a boy. In the end, however, Koofi's mother rescued her from the near death because she didn't want to have another girl suffer as she had suffered as a woman in Afghanistan. When Koofi was 3 years old, her father was killed by Mujaheddin when he was trying to broker peace between them and the Soviet backed Afghan government. She wanted to become a medical doctor but said that women are not always able to progress in the roles that they want in Afghanistan. It remains her goal to fight this oppression today. Now as both a mother and politician, Deputy Speaker Koofi feels that she has a legacy to leave her children. Koofi recently published her memoirs, *The Favoured Daughter: One Woman's Fight to Lead Afghanistan into the Future*. She tells a story of how one day she was going to see her constituents and was given warning that the Taliban had threatened to attack her helicopter. In her family's tradition of writing farewell letters, she wrote letters to her daughters conveying to them that if she did not survive, she wanted them to stand on their values and if they were harmed for it, this was alright because "at the end of the day you pave the way for others to come forward." Fortunately, she was not attacked. Deputy Speaker Fawzia Koofi plans to run for president of Afghanistan in the next democratic election.

Other current female leaders/heads of state in developing countries include President Cristina E. Fernández de Kirchner of Argentina, President Laura Chinchilla Miranda of Costa Rica and President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia.