



American Planning Association

Making Great Communities Happen

APA JUDITH McMANUS PRICE SCHOLARSHIP

2012-2013 Academic Year

The Program

Judith McManus Price, a planner for more than 30 years before her death in 2001, was an exceptional woman with extraordinary talents that she freely shared, not only with her family and friends, but also with her community, her colleagues, and her profession. She served the public sector in a variety of planning positions facing challenges with strength and optimism – her trademark. Her husband, Thomas Price continues her gift of sharing with a generous endowment to the Judith McManus Price Scholarship to help women and minority students enter the field of planning.

The scholarship is meant to celebrate planning by providing partial funding for women and minority (African American, Hispanic American, or Native American) students. Eligible students are United States citizens, enrolled in Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) accredited planning programs, intending to pursue careers as practicing planners in the public sector, (which includes local, state & federal government, and not-for-profit careers) and are able to demonstrate a genuine financial need. The payments are made to the school on the student's account. The award includes a paid one-year student membership to APA.

The APA welcomes student members and supports student organizations on many campuses in the U. S. Graduating APA Student Members now qualify for a new reduced dues category – New Professionals – developed to ease the financial burden of professional membership during the early years of their careers. Their planning careers will be enhanced through continuing education, professional networking opportunities, chapter and division activities, and other resources for the beginning planner as well as the more experienced practitioner. After obtaining a graduate degree and a minimum of two years work in the planning field, a professional planner may become certified through the AICP certification process.

Eligibility

- Women and members of one of the following minority groups – African American, Hispanic American or Native American
- Citizens of the United States
- Students enrolled or officially accepted for enrollment in an undergraduate or graduate planning program accredited by the PAB (Planning Accreditation Board)
- Students who intend to work as practicing planners in the public sector (which includes local, state & federal government, and not-for-profit careers).
- Students able to document their need for financial assistance

Note: Prior winners of any APA-administered fellowship or scholarship program are not eligible.

Application Requirements

Application requirements include:

1. a two page personal and background statement written by the student, describing how their graduate education will be applied to career goals and why they chose planning as a career path,

Tips for writing personal and background statement:

- a. Keep your personal statement brief and focused on your hopes for success in the planning field.
 - b. Share your passion for planning.
 - c. Avoid detailed discussion of planning theory.
2. a completed and signed APA Financial Aid application;
 3. two letters of recommendation in support of the student's application and career goals;
 4. official transcripts (sent by the offices of the Registrar to APA) of **all** previous collegiate and graduate academic work – to be requested by student with adequate time for receipt in APA's **Chicago office** no later than **April 30th**;
 5. written verification from the school's financial officer or copies of a school publication or website indicating the average cost of one academic year of graduate school;
 6. a resume (**optional** if the information is supplied in the student's personal statement);
 7. copy of acceptance letter from a PAB-accredited graduate planning school (incoming students only);
 8. a notarized statement of financial independence signed by the student's parent(s) (**optional**) certifying that the student will not be taken as a tax deduction in the year for which the scholarship is sought and will not receive financial aid from the parents;
 9. the student's signature on this application.

Please Note:

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the Committee. To check on the status of your application, send your request to kblank@planning.org

Selection Criteria

A Selection Committee of three to four persons appointed by the APA President will review applications and determine award winners. Applications will be judged using the following criteria, listed in order of importance:

- ❖ commitment to planning as reflected in personal statement and resume
- ❖ academic achievement and/or improvement during previous two years
- ❖ letters of recommendation
- ❖ financial need - both absolute need and need relative to tuition costs
- ❖ professional presentation

- ❖ geographic balance of awards during that particular year

Awards will be made to those demonstrating the highest levels of commitment to the planning profession as communicated in the personal statement and involvement in other planning-related activities, academic achievement, strong letters of recommendation, and financial need.

The Award Process

- The Selection Committee meets in July to review applications.
- Alternates are chosen in the event those selected for a planning fellowship are unable to return to school or if a student recipient fails to submit a written acceptance within the stated period after being notified of award.
- APA Executive Director will announce the names of award recipients by the end of August.
- **Award recipients are required:**
 - to provide a written acceptance of the award, and
 - to provide a contact name and mailing information for the school's financial aid/business office, to insure proper payment to the student's account at the school.
 - Social Security Number
- Upon receipt of these required materials, the first half of the award will be paid to the student's account at the school. The second half will be paid in January, *contingent on a written report from the school stating that the student is still enrolled and maintaining a satisfactory level of work.*
- It is the responsibility of the applicant/recipient to notify APA of any change in address for any and all notices and student membership services.
- Staff will notify the appropriate APA Chapter President of fellowship recipients in their areas. Chapters are encouraged to involve recipients in Chapter activities and provide mentoring.

Certification

I have examined the entire application and all documents attached. I certify that to the best of my ability, knowledge and belief that this Judith McManus Price Scholarship application package is true and all representations herein are accurate statements of fact(s).

Name _____ Date _____

Signature of Applicant

Award Information

Please indicate how you learned about this program (check one):

APA Promotion APA Website School/University Office Financial Aid Guide

Other (please list): _____

Checklist

Please make sure all application documents are arranged in order as noted in the checklist, below.

- two-to-five page personal statement
- completed APA Financial Aid application
- two letters of recommendation
- photocopy of letter of acceptance from PAB-accredited planning graduate program, if an incoming student
- written verification or copy of school's average cost for one academic year of graduate study
- a resume of work experience and background, if not incorporated into personal statement
- optional notarized statement of financial independence
- application signed on page 3.
- official (sealed) transcripts of all previous collegiate and graduate academic work

Request official transcripts in time for them to reach APA by the deadline date.

Deadline

The deadline for the Judith McManus Price Scholarship is April 30th. All original application information must be received in the APA Chicago office by that date. If forwarded via FEDEX or similar courier service the delivery must be made to APA by April 30th. **Faxed or electronic documents will not be accepted.**

Mail completed applications to:

APA Judith McManus Scholarship
Attn: Kriss Blank, Leadership Affairs Associate
American Planning Association
205 N. Michigan Ave., Suite #1200
Chicago, IL 60601

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