

Puksta Scholars Application

2015-2016 Academic Year

The education of students to be responsible, civically engaged citizens within our society constitutes a key part of the University of Colorado Boulder's educational mission. Puksta Scholars serve as a catalyst for bringing about positive change in the campus culture and in the local communities, while acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and experiences necessary for ethical, responsible citizenship upon graduation.

Puksta Program Description

Puksta Scholars will be engaged in a rich, stimulating and important program of civic engagement. They will serve as models of civic and social responsibility promoting positive change within our communities. The work of the Puksta Scholars will effectively integrate learning in and outside the classroom resulting in an enhanced and illuminating educational experience and responsible citizenship. The Puksta Scholars is one of the university's "Special Enhancement Opportunities Programs."

Each scholar must develop a year-long intensive civic engagement project. While doing so, they are supported by an experienced team of faculty/staff, other scholars and an enriching program of seminars, speakers, service projects and opportunities to collaborate and share insights.

What is Civic Engagement?

Civic engagement is defined as:

Individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern. Civic Engagement can take many forms, from individual volunteerism to organizational involvement to electoral participation. It can include efforts to directly address an issue, work with others in a community to solve a problem or interact with the institutions of representative democracy (The Pew Charitable Trusts).

Puksta Program Requirements

Within the context of the definition of civic engagement, Puksta Scholars are expected to:

1. Actively participate in public service and contribute to the common good.
2. Undertake a project that is significant in scope and devote considerable time and effort to their civic engagement work. Scholars are required to spend an average of 6-8 hours per week on their Puksta project, which includes planning and preparation time.
3. Demonstrate leadership and initiative in developing, implementing and evaluating their civic engagement project.
4. Attend Puksta events and meetings and submit required project plan and reports.

Puksta Application Process

Students who will be considered for this scholarship will be those who have exhibited an interest and commitment to their own ethical and civic development and who show promise for the future. They must be people with strong academic goals, who want to further develop their knowledge and skills, be role models for others, and bring about positive change within our campus and society.

Please note that this scholarship is available to incoming freshmen, sophomores and juniors. It is not available to emerging seniors.

To apply for this scholarship, students must submit a Puksta Scholars application and four essays as described in the application by January 31, 2015. **There will be a limited number of \$4,500 scholarships, which may be renewable based upon available funding and successful completion of program requirements.**

Selection Criteria

Puksta Scholars are selected based on their interest in developing civic skills, ability to critically reflect on their identity and life experiences as they relate to community and social responsibility, ability to translate personal and democratic values into action, value of diversity and difference, and interest in connecting their academic learning and future career(s) to the common good regardless of their field. **Puksta Scholars must maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher. Priority will be given to students with demonstrated financial need.**

2015-2016 Puksta Scholars Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Full Name (Last, First, Middle):

Local Address (including zip code):

University Student ID Number:

Email Address:

Phone:

Major(s):

Minor(s):

High School GPA:

Weighted Yes/No:

College GPA:

Expected Year and Semester of Graduation:

Honors/awards/special recognition/publications:

Diverse Identities: The Puksta Scholars Program is an inclusive and intentionally diverse community in which we learn how to work with diverse individuals and communities. We desire to convene diverse identities within the Puksta community, and as a result we define diversity and identity/ies broadly. Diversity and difference come in various forms, which may include but are not limited to: sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, socio-economic status, political beliefs, spiritual/religious identity/ies, race and ethnicity/ies, nationality/ies, first-generation college students, disability, etc.

Please share with us the various descriptors you use to define your identity/ies:

Justice Issue Area(s): Please list the justice issue area(s) or other community issue(s) you are interested in being actively involved with as a Puksta Scholars (see list below for suggested areas, or you may identify your own):

- Affordable Housing
- Community Organizing
- Criminal Justice
- Disabilities
- Discrimination
- Economic Development
- Education
- Environment
- Food, Nutrition, and Hunger
- Health Care
- Homelessness
- Human / Civil Rights
- Immigration
- Labor
- Music, Theatre, and the Arts
- Peace
- Political Process
- Poverty
- Racism
- Refugees and Migration
- Religion and Culture
- Senior Services
- Sexism
- Sexuality, Gender, and LGBTIQA
- Violence
- Youth

My issue areas are:

ESSAYS

There are four mandatory essays. Each essay should address all parts of the questions below and be **no more than 300 words** in length. This is meant to be a reflective writing, not a summary of your activities in the community or awards.

Please attach the essays to this application form.

1. One form of motivation used in community organizing is *testimonio*, or personal testimonial narratives. Tell us a story that explains your motivation for participating in your community. What is your personal connection to the justice issue area(s) that you identified?

2. An essential part of the Puksta Scholars program is translating ideas into action. Please narrow your broad social justice issue into a statement of a problem and a *proposed* project that would address this problem. Make sure to include a discussion of the root causes of the problem as well as the anticipated impact of your project.

3. What are your academic interests, and how might your participation in Puksta Scholars enhance your academic interests?

4. Describe your career goals and future plans after graduation from CU-Boulder.

Email your application form and essays to Roudy.Hildreth@colorado.edu by January 31, 2015. Applications will not be considered if they are submitted after this date.

Please make sure to submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, 2015. Questions may be directed to Elaina Verveer (verveer@colorado.edu) prior to January 1, 2015 and to Roudy Hildreth (roudy.hildreth@colorado.edu) after January 1, 2015.