

Rutgers-Camden Civic Scholars Application for 2017-2018

The Rutgers-Camden Civic Scholars is a unique scholarship opportunity for students who show the potential to be leaders in serving and connecting Rutgers to communities beyond our campus. By engaging in both curricular and co-curricular activities, Civic Scholars make a contribution to individuals and communities in the City of Camden and the region while preparing themselves for lifelong professional and civic leadership. Through a 300-hour service commitment per year, the Civic Scholars partner with community organizations on a wide variety of social justice issues including education and youth development; public health; hunger and homelessness; and environmental quality. Rutgers-Camden's partnership with the Bonner Foundation provides Civic Scholars access to a national network providing opportunities to participate in regional and national conferences, seminars, and internships throughout the academic year and summer, allowing Civic Scholars to share their experiences with engaged students from around the country.

Applicants under consideration following review of the written application will be invited to participate in a campus interview.

Mandatory Program Expectations:

- 300-hour service commitment per year (which can include the summer months at each student's discretion)
- Regularly logging hours served in Web Based Reporting System
- "Making Social Change" Seminar (Freshman students)
- Civic Engagement English 102 (Freshman students)
- Weekly meetings and trainings
- Planning and Participation in service events including the of 9/11 Day of Service and MLK Day of Service, and conferences including Bonner Congress, CUMU, Inspire, and Summer Leadership Institute

Program Benefits:

- \$2,000 Academic Award with possibility for annual renewal
- Developing invaluable professional skills and experience
- Performing transformational service
- Learning to apply your skills and talents to real social challenges
- Building life-long professional and personal networks
- Federal Work Study applicable

Please describe your community service experience. Include the following information:

- Organizations served (e.g., Habitat for Humanity)
- Service tasks with brief description (e.g., served food at soup kitchen which fed 200 people; helped organize donations for disaster relief)
- Time commitment (e.g., two hours per week; once a month)

If applicable, please describe any civic engagement or community service projects, initiatives, or advocacy efforts you have led and your role in the process (e.g., spearheaded letter writing campaign to request installation of more trash receptacles in a neighborhood park to cut down on littering; organized a book drive to donate books for a local youth outreach center).

How does service and civic engagement connect with your academic interests, your values, and your long-term goals?

As a Civic Scholar, you will be serving alongside fellow students who have likewise dedicated themselves to engaging with communities in Camden and beyond. Collaboration among Civic Scholars is key to fostering Rutgers-Camden's mission of civic engagement. Describe an experience working in a group or team. How did your efforts contribute to the achievement of collective goals? Did the group encounter conflict? How did you work through it? What role did you play?

Short Answer Questions (select one):

- 1) Civic engagement is "working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes." How can Civic Scholars help you achieve these outcomes?
- 2) The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." What does this have to do with civic engagement?
- 3) Income inequality "is the unequal distribution of household or individual income across the various participants in an economy." Describe an instance of income inequality that you have observed, whether in the news, in your town, or otherwise.

Scenarios (select one):

- 1) Explain your major (or intended major, academic concentration, etc.) and its application to civic engagement to the executive director of a nonprofit community garden.
- 2) A homeless person on the steps of the Paul Robeson Library asks you for money. How do you respond?