



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS



## JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION WORKSHOP

*October 5, 2016* | Office of Nationally Competitive Awards



“The purpose of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program is to alleviate a critical current and future shortage of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers.”

The focus is research—not application. They do not want to support students who will be work-a-day doctors, engineers, or corporate support staff.

- **Academic Achievement**

- Grades, level of courses, awards, scholarships

- **Progress Toward Research Goals**

- Research activities, career goals, course work

- **Research Essay**

- Technical content, bibliography, organization/grammar

- **Letters of Recommendation**

- Commitment to research, intellectual curiosity, potential for research contributions

*Equal weight is given to each evaluation criteria.*



- Carry out a “30-second” review
  - GPA above 3.5
  - Plan for PhD in an appropriate field
  - Commitment to research career
- Carry out team review
  - Evaluation of entire application
  - Selection of scholars and at-large candidates
- Carry out further review of at-large pool
  - Review by 2-3 additional independent reviewers

- GPA > 3.75.
- Course work consistent to meet graduate school goals.
- Research experience *or* well-developed research plan.
- Application where *every* response suggests a research career.
- In-depth essay concentrating on expected or obtained research results.
- Three strong letters of recommendation. One should be a mentor letter.



Nominees with certain career fields must verify a research career commitment.

- Civil Engineering – build bridges vs research
- Computer Science – programmer vs research
- MD/PhD – clinical vs research
- Psychology – clinical or industrial vs science research



- Outline *each* research activity.
  - On- and off-campus.
  - Research component(s) of internships
- Identify research that leads to presentations, posters, papers, etc.
  - OK to identify “in preparation” papers
- Conduct research consistent with major
- Seek letters of recommendation from research supervisor/mentor.

- Detail current and future academic programs that lead to career goal
- Outline plans for graduate school at *doctoral* level—possible graduate schools identified
- Include, if appropriate, postdoctoral research and grant activities
- Indicate sources of research experience
  - Independent study and internships
  - Honors thesis
  - Graduate and postdoctoral research projects



- Personal information is optional.
  - Complete this section
  - Use of personal information is a minor factor compared to major evaluation criteria
- Level of detail is left to you
- *Personal information is never negative in the review*
- Helpful for nominees who have non-traditional background or an inconsistency in the application.
  - Impact of economic or ethnic background
  - Impact of employment as undergraduate

- The research essay must demonstrate knowledge base and reinforce research career.
  - Curing cancer or AIDS is too broad.
- Write to the expertise of the reviewer.
- Detailed, technical language is expected.
  - Bibliography should include *refereed journal* references.
  - Diagrams and figures can be helpful.
- Background should not exceed 50% of essay.
- Interpretation of obtained or expected results is very helpful.
- Faculty input and review are essential.



## FACULTY SHOULD

- Write a detailed 1-2 page letter.
  - *Not* an application for grad school or a job
- Concentrate on motivation and potential for a research career.
  - ‘A’ student is assumed
  - Avoid “turned in assignments on time,” etc.
  - Avoid “how difficult my course is,” etc.
  - OK for nominee to be a “nerd”
- Compare to other students who have gone on to PhD programs and research careers.
  - Evaluation at comparable stage of nominee’s career

- Weak or inconsistent letters of reference from research faculty
- Poor choice in selecting individuals to write letters of recommendation
- Poorly written research essay
- Inconsistent application in areas that speak to a research career
- Lower grades in comparison to scholar average GPA

# APPLICANT CHECKLIST



- Complete all sections of the application.
- Make a consistent, strong case for a research career.
- Include *all* research activities, presentations, posters and papers.
- Consider the essay a miniature research proposal.
- Select the three *best* individuals to write letters of recommendation.
- Evaluate and proofread multiple times.



- **Campus Deadline: Tuesday, November 15**
- **National Deadline: Friday, January 27 (5:00pm Central Time)**



- Complete online application. Hit submit. You will be sending it to our office (not to Goldwater, so don't worry).
- Do not add your letter writers to the online application at this time.
- Have 3 recommenders send letters to [smccray@uark.edu](mailto:smccray@uark.edu).
- Bring your transcript (from every college attended) and the two-page research essay to our office—Silas Hunt Hall 232 (attn: Jonathan Langley) by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, November 15.

# TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP



- Recognizes juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education or elsewhere in the public service; and
- Provides them with financial support for graduate/professional school study, leadership training, and fellowship with other students who are committed to making a difference through public service.
- [www.truman.gov](http://www.truman.gov)

# THE AWARD



- Up to \$30,000 for graduate/professional school study
- Priority admission and supplemental financial aid at premier graduate institutions
- Leadership training
- Career and graduate school counseling
- Special internship opportunities within the federal government

## ELIGIBILITY



- Must be a full-time student pursuing a bachelor's degree with junior-level academic standing
  - OR have senior-level standing in my third year of college enrollment
  - OR a senior and a resident of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or a Pacific Island.
- US Citizen (or a US national from a Pacific Island) or extent to receive citizenship by the date the scholarship will be awarded
  - *Note: Students who have completed their bachelor's degree or are already attending graduate school are not eligible for the Truman.*

## ARE YOU COMPETITIVE?



- Do you want to be a "change agent," improving the ways that government agencies, nonprofit organizations, or educational institutions serve the public?
- Are there conditions in our society or the environment that trouble you?
- Do you want to get a master's degree, a doctorate, or a professional degree such as a law degree or a Master's of Public Administration, Master's of Public Health, Master's of Social Work, Master's of Education, Master's of Public Policy, or Master's of International Affairs.

## ARE YOU COMPETITIVE?



- Do you participate extensively in two or more of the following sets of activities:
  - Student government and/or campus-based extracurricular activities;
  - Community service-related activities;
  - Government internships, commissions or boards, advocacy or interest groups, nonpartisan political activities, or military/ROTC;
  - Partisan political activities and campaigns
- Are you involved with organizations or activities related to your career interests?

# THE APPLICATION



- Institutional Nomination Form and Letter
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- Spring Transcript
- Application form (14 questions)
- Policy Proposal

*Four nominees allowed from each campus.*

# TRUMAN APPLICATION—RESPONSES 2-6



- College and High School Activities
- Public/Community/Civic Service Activities
- Government-related Activities
- Part-time/full-time Jobs and Non-governmental Internships
- Award/Scholarships/Honors/Presentations

# TRUMAN APPLICATION—LEADERSHIP



- Describe an example of your leadership
- Leadership Letter of Recommendation must confirm leadership example

# TRUMAN APPLICATION—SERVICE



- Describe a recent satisfying public service activity
- Must be different from example of leadership
- Service letter of recommendation should mention this activity but does not need to come from a supervisor of the activity

# TRUMAN APPLICATION—RESPONSES 12-14



These responses outline your career path including

- Graduate/Professional School Plans
- First Job
- Mid-Career path

# TRUMAN APPLICATION—RESPONSE 15



- This is your personal statement.
- You have the opportunity to share your passions and to make clear your commitment to a career in public service.
- Tell a story that only you can tell.

# LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



- Leadership Potential & Abilities
  - Directly tied to response in Item 7 (Leadership)
- Commitment to a Career in Public Service
- Intellect & Prospects for Continuing Academic Success

## APPLICATION—RESPONSE 9/POLICY PROPOSAL



- You must examine a policy issue or problem that you intend as a possible career area. This should connect with the service area you describe in question 9.
- The policy proposal is submitted in the form of a memo and should define a problem, propose a solution and identify significant obstacles. Provide data, and cite sources of that data. There is a 500 word limit.

# CAMPUS DEADLINE



Campus Deadline: November 15, 2016 5:00 p.m.

Truman Application Deadline: February 7, 2017

Finalist Posting: February 24, 2017

Regional Review Panels: March 3-April 7, 2017

Truman Scholars Announced: April 12, 2017

Truman Scholars Leadership Week: May 23-28, 2017

# NEXT STEPS



Request Truman Registration by sending an email to [awards.uark.edu](mailto:awards.uark.edu). Please provide your email address, local address, and permanent address.

Complete the Truman application online. When you hit send, it comes to our office, not to the Truman Foundation.

Have letters of recommendation sent to [smccray@uark.edu](mailto:smccray@uark.edu).

Request an official transcript.

Submit all materials by Tuesday, November 15.

Stewart Udall represented Southern Arizona from 1955 to 1961 in the US House of Representatives, leaving to serve as the Secretary of the Interior during the Kennedy Administration. Morris Udall followed his brother in the House, representing Southern Arizona from 1961-1991. The two addressed issues concerning environmental and Native American issues.

For more information see [www.udall.gov](http://www.udall.gov).

- To recognize committed students pursuing careers where they will be able to have an impact on environmental issues
- To recognize committed Native American and Alaska Native students pursuing careers related to including tribal public policy
- To recognize committed Native American and Alaska Native students pursuing careers related to Native American health care

# WHY APPLY



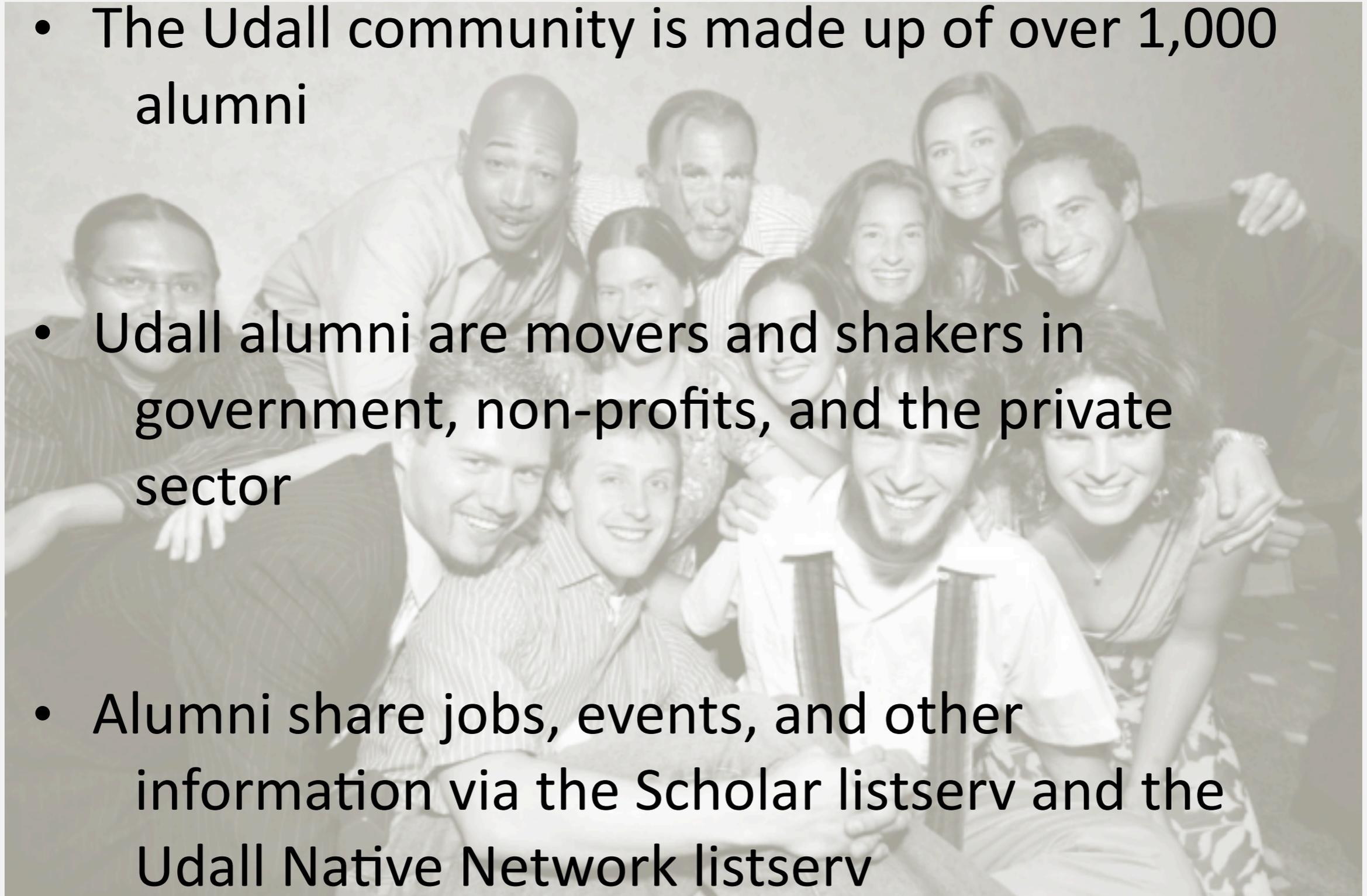
- \$7,000
- Scholar Orientation
- Udall Alumni Network

- *“This is the best possible celebration and affirmation of my work that I have received.”  
—Recent Udall Scholar*

DATE: August 8-13, 2017



- The Udall community is made up of over 1,000 alumni
- Udall alumni are movers and shakers in government, non-profits, and the private sector
- Alumni share jobs, events, and other information via the Scholar listserv and the Udall Native Network listserv



- Current sophomores or juniors
- Plan on full-time study in 2017-18
- GPA equivalent of “B” or higher
- U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident
- Applicants in the tribal policy or Native health care categories must be Native American or Alaska Native



- Policy
- Engineering
- Science
- Education
- Urban Planning
- Health
- Business
- Justice
- Economics

- Sovereignty
- Governance
- Law
- Education
- Resource Management
- Cultural Preservation
- Economic Development

- Health care administration
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Counseling
- Public Health Research
- Social Work

- Career Path/Aspirations
- Biographical information (Part D:1-8)
  - Schooling
  - Program and Activities
  - Internships, assistantships, and jobs
  - Public Service
  - Research (not required) and Leadership Experiences
  - Additional information
- Udall Essay
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts
- Nomination

In 800 words, discuss “a significant public speech, legislative act, book, or public policy statement by Congressman Morris K. Udall or Secretary of Interior Stewart L. Udall and its impact on your field of study, interests, and career goals.”

- Articulate a career path
- Tell a cohesive story
- Use the short answers to demonstrate your commitment
- Demonstrate an ability to problem solve or build consensus.
- Make clear your leadership experience and potential

- Referring to “Senator” Udall
- Not answering the additional information section
  - Or using it to thank the committee
  - Or as a plea for money
  - Or to explain why you have no courses, activities, or work experience to support your interest in the environment or Native American public or health policy
  - Or to talk about being a vegan, who does not bathe in order to conserve water

- Unambitious career goals
- Unrealistic career goals
- Lack of passion
- A failure to convey motivation

# ADVICE & APPLICATION REVIEW



*Suzanne McCray*  
Director

[smccray@uark.edu](mailto:smccray@uark.edu)



*Jonathan Langley*  
Assistant Director

[jtlangl@uark.edu](mailto:jtlangl@uark.edu)