

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

LAW & POLICY SCHOLARS

SCHOLAR GUIDELINES

You are invited to submit your application to the National Congress of American Indians Law & Policy Scholarship. This scholarship is designed to support undergraduate, graduate or law school candidates in their educational endeavors that most closely align with the work and mission of the National Congress of American Indians. Additionally, selected scholars may be provided the opportunity to attend NCAI's annual conference to support your continued career development and to assist in the educational development of the younger generation.* Please carefully review the eligibility criteria. Selection is based on your heritage, academic records, experience and evidence of your past, present and future commitment to the National Congress of American Indians mission to:

Serve as a forum for united policy development among tribal governments in order to:

- (1) Protect and advance tribal governance and treaty rights
- (2) Promote economic development and health and welfare in Indian and Alaska Native communities
- (3) Educate the public toward a better understanding of Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

Selection is also based on community involvement and advocacy, professional involvement and personal experiences. To strengthen your candidacy, each of these should be demonstrated in your application *and* letters of recommendation.

The National Congress of American Indians Youth Development Staff will review your application materials to determine your eligibility for the scholarship. Decisions are final and cannot be appealed. However, students who are not selected are encouraged ask for feedback to strengthen their candidacy for the following year(s) application.

The National Congress of American Indians is looking for academic excellence and demonstrated long-term commitment to the mission of NCAI.

APPLY TODAY

Applying to the National Congress of American Indians Scholars program is straightforward. Please prepare your application materials. Follow the steps outlined below carefully.

Available: Sept. 1, 2020

Application Submission Deadline: 11: 59 EST Sept. 25, 2020

Letters of Recommendation Submission Deadline: 11:59 EST Sept. 25, 2020

- **Completed Application Submission:** Aside from recommendation letters, send all (5) application documents in a single email to cpanther@ncai.org.
 - Transcript(s)
 - Resume
 - Essay 1
 - Essay 2
 - Photo Release Form

Letters of Recommendation Submission: cpanther@ncai.org

Finalist Phase: Sept 26 – Oct 8, 2020

Selection: Oct 9, 2020

Document Submission: Oct 16, 2020

Awards: Fall Semester 2020

Spring Semester 2021

Your completed application and supporting materials to the National Congress of American Indians Scholars program are due at 11:59 EST on the deadline date. If your application is not completely filled out and/or missing any supporting materials – including your letters of reference – it will be marked as incomplete. *Incomplete applications will not be considered.* No exceptions.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered to join the National Congress of American Indians Scholars, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be an enrolled member of a state or federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native tribe OR be able to provide documentation of a natural parent or grandparent who was/is an enrolled member
- Demonstrate a commitment to the National Congress of American Indians mission
- Undergraduate candidates must be in their junior year, have declared a political science, international relations, history, business, English, philosophy, economics, psychology, math or science major(s).
- Graduate students must be pursuing law or a Masters or PhD in Public Administration, Public Policy, Public Affairs, International Relations or Political Science
- Minimum 2.8 GPA for undergraduate and 3.0 for graduate students
- Demonstrated financial need through FAFSA

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Transcript(s)

To complete the application, a scanned hard copy of your transcript(s) is required. Considering the document submission deadline (Oct. 16, 2020 for selected NCAI Scholars), an official transcript is advised. However, during the review process, NCAI staff can review an unofficial transcript and it will *not* negatively affect your application. Please note that a screenshot of your grades/transcript is unacceptable. Furthermore, the offer to join the NCAI Law & Policy Scholars program is not binding until official transcripts are received and verified. An official transcript will be required from every institution attended by the document submission deadline Oct. 16, 2020. At any point during the application process, NCAI reserves the right to request that an official transcript be sent directly from the school. Please note that a screenshot of your grades/transcript is unacceptable.

Resume

A completed application includes your resume in a .pdf format. Your resume should include your employment history complete with job titles and accomplishments along with employer names and locations. Please also include your post-secondary education, non-academic interests, activities and awards.

Essays

The essays are designed for NCAI to get to know you as a candidate. As you respond to each essay prompt, please provide illustrative and specific examples of your experience, actions and results when possible. The first essay in particular is your opportunity to discuss your personal strengths, attributes, life and professional experiences that you deem relevant to your educational and career goals. The second essay provides a pointed opportunity for you to illustrate your commitment to

the mission of NCAI. As previously stated, please write each essay with great care. Please follow these general guidelines:

- Each essay should include your name, specify if you are a undergraduate, law or graduate candidate and appropriate essay number
- Please use times new roman in a 12-point font
- Each essay should be double spaced
- Must be in a Microsoft Word document
- Essay 1 page limit: 2 pages
- Essay 2 page limit: 2-5 pages

Your complete application should include two essays:

- Essay 1: Consider your short and long term goals. How has your lived experiences and/or professional work history informed your objective(s)?

Essay 2: The mission of NCAI is to serve as a forum for united policy development among tribal governments in order to: protect and advance tribal governance and treaty rights, promote economic development and health and welfare in Indian and Alaska Native communities and educate the public toward a better understanding of Indian and Alaska Native tribes. Considering this mission, please respond to every question in the following prompt:

- (1) Prior to candidacy for the NCAI Law & Policy Scholarship, what have you done to demonstrate your commitment to NCAI's mission?
- (2) What do you plan to do if selected as a NCAI Law & Policy Scholar to demonstrate your continued commitment to the mission throughout your studies?

(3) What will you do after graduation to demonstrate your continued commitment to the mission of NCAI?

As with the previous essay, please be demonstrative in your response.

Letters of Recommendation

All letter of recommendation should be email from your recommender directly to NCAI. Your application should include a total of two letters of recommendation:

- One required professional recommendations
- One mission support recommendation

The professional recommendation letter should come from an individual who is able to provide an objective review of your performance. The professional recommender can include current or former work supervisors, current or former colleagues, current or former professors, etc. As professional recommendations are expected to be objective - family, friends, and peers are strongly discouraged.

The mission support recommendation letter should come from a third party who can provide an objective statement on your demonstrated community involvement, advocacy and/or professional involvement with regard to NCAI's mission statement. Mission support letters may come from current or former supervisors, current or former volunteer supervisors or colleagues, professors, your Nation's Chief or President, etc.

Photo Release Form

A completed scholarship application must include a signed copy of the photo release form. Photographs are taken throughout the NCAI conferences by which incidentally, some photographs

may capture you directly or indirectly. These photos may be published through our website, social media pages, news bulletins, ect. With this, NCAI is seeking your consent in allowing us to publish photos in which you may appear across platforms.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Transcript(s)
 - Resume
 - Essay 1
 - Essay 2
 - Professional Recommendation Letter
 - Mission Support Recommendation Letter
 - Photo Release Form

Please follow the list above. Aside from your recommendation letters, please e-mail all items at the same time to: cpanther@ncai.org. Please be sure to note that it is your job to follow up with your recommenders to ensure that they have emailed the recommendation letter to NCAI (cpanther@ncai.org) by the due date. NCAI will only review completed applications.

APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

Demonstrated commitment to the mission

To become an NCAI Law & Policy Scholar, you need to demonstrate academic excellence and a significant commitment to NCAI's mission. Your commitment will be assessed through your Mission Support essay and your letters of recommendation from objective third parties.

Interview

Should you be selected as a finalist applicant, NCAI will invite you take part in an interview as part of the application process. Interviews will be conducted over the phone or via zoom conference.

Scholarship Offer

Those selected to receive the NCAI Law & Policy Scholarship will receive an e-mail notification. If a candidate accepts the offer, they are required to turn in all required document by Oct 16, 2020. Once all documentation is received, the scholarship offer is considered final.

Scholarship Award

The total scholarship award for each student is \$10,000.00. This total award amount will be divided in two to be dispersed directly to the scholar's institution at the beginning of each semester.

Therefore, each NCAI Scholar is eligible to receive the following:

Fall: \$5,000.00

Spring: \$5,000.00

Total: \$10,000.00

Students must remain in good standing to receive the full award according the provisions outlined in the eligibility section.

Scholar Commitment

Recipients are expected to remain in good academic standing – your grade point average should not drop below the minimum requirement expectation of initial candidacy. At the end of each semester, NCAI Scholars will be required to submit a copy of their transcript by the following dates:

- Fall semester transcript due by Feb. 1
- Spring semester transcript due by July 1

Additionally, all NCAI Scholars will be required to attend the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference.* This is a unique opportunity for you to connect directly with the work of NCAI, American Indian/ Alaska Native leaders, and American Indian/ Alaska Native youth. NCAI Scholars will be expected to attend sessions by NCAI and also serve the youth when called upon to do so. Examples of service may include: presentation of research or sitting on a speaking panel. Finally, NCAI Law & Policy Scholars will submit a 3-5 page essay reflecting on how the NCAI Law and Policy Scholarship Program has been beneficial in your educational, professional and community development. The essay is due at the end of the conference. We look forward to supporting your endeavors!

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE

All information outlined above is not considered a contract of any kind and may change without notice as the discretion of the National Congress of American Indians. Due to Covid-19, attendance of the 2021 mid-year conference by NCAI Law & Policy Scholars will be confirmed at a later date.* Further changes may include timelines, requirements, policies, offers, awards, etc. Changes may include but are not limited to those listed above.



Photo Consent and Release Form

I, the undersigned, do hereby consent and agree that the **National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)**, a non-profit organization, its employees, or agents have my permission to use any image and likeness of me and/or any statements from me in any and all publications, now or hereafter known. I further consent that my name and identity may be revealed therein or by descriptive text.

I do hereby release to **NCAI**, its agents, and employees all rights to exhibit any image and likeness of me and/or any statements from me in print and electronic form publicly and privately. I waive any rights, claims, or interest I may have to control the use of my identity or likeness in whatever media used. I understand that there will be no financial or other remuneration for recording me, either for initial or subsequent transmission or playback. I also understand **NCAI** is not responsible for any expense or liability incurred as a result of my participation in this recording, including medical expenses due to any sickness or injury incurred as a result.

I represent that I am at least 18 years of age, have read and understand the foregoing statement, and am competent to execute this agreement.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Witness for the undersigned: _____

Signature: _____

Youth Release

I hereby grant to the National Congress of American Indians, the right to use any image and likeness of my child and/or any statements from my child, _____, or other reproduction of my or his/her physical likeness and/or statements in any form, in whole or in part, for publication processes, whether electronic, print, digital or electronic publishing via the internet.

We, the undersigned, have read, understand and agree to the Photo Consent and Release. I certify that I am a custodial parent/legal guardian and have the aforementioned rights to assign (required if youth participant is 17 years of age and younger).

Print Parent/Legal Guardian's Name

Signature

Date