University of Minnesota, Waseca / Southern School of Agriculture
Alumni Association

Rural Leadership Development Fund

$1000.00

Application deadline is January 8, 2027

The Rural Development Leadership Scholarship is designed to encourage individuals to seek leadership training opportunities that would result in a strengthened rural Minnesota. Leadership education or training may include, but is not limited to programs such as MARL – Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program; The Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership; Leadership Programs in FFA or 4-H and other programs. These programs are only examples, all educational opportunities will be considered.

Criteria

- Minimum age, completion of 8th grade and above.
- Provide a resume.
- Submit cover letter providing information about the program you are applying for, cost, and why you feel this program will improve your leadership skills.
- Must submit two ***signed*** letters of recommendation.
- Indicate association to UMW or SSA, can be an extended family member, provide name and years of UMW/SSA attendance.

Determination

The scholarship committee will select the recipients of these awards based on the criteria outlined. More than one individual may be selected to receive this scholarship. Funds will be provided based on cost (up to the total cost of the program). A total of $1000 will be distributed annually.

How to apply

- Complete resume of activities, offices held, accomplishments, leadership activities, awards, employment history, and future plans.
- Submit cover letter summarizing the resume as well as providing information about the program you are applying for, cost, and why you feel this program will improve your leadership skills. Please also indicate your relationship to SSA/UMW alumni.
- Submit two ***signed*** letters of recommendation from persons who fully understand your work habits and intensity of education objectives.

Submit to

Return complete application requirements, postmarked no later than January 8, 2027 to:
Alumni Scholarship Committee Southern Research & Outreach Center, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093
Applications may also be submitted electronically to umwalum@umn.edu – letters of recommendation must be submitted directly from individual making the recommendation. Questions can be directed to Kay Pedretti, (507) 313 6394

If submitted via email, all materials should be sent in one file pdf format only.

Selection

Factors to be considered by the Selection Committee

- **Resume & Cover Letter** (50% of selection decision)
- **Recommendation** (25% of selection decision)
- **Ag Related or Services to Rural Communities** (25% of selection decision)

Notification

Successful scholarship recipients will be notified in March. Upon notification, funds will be distributed to recipients once program certification of completion has been submitted.