

The Christopher Peterson Commitment to Service Award

Section I: Information

The University Honors College prides itself on partnering with the community at large through programs such as the Freshman Honors Colloquium course and the Greiner Shared Interest Housing (SIH) group. Our students are encouraged to pursue philanthropic and volunteer opportunities that will enhance the academic, cultural, social, and communal aspects of the Western New York community and beyond.

The Christopher Peterson Commitment to Service Award is bestowed annually upon a graduating Honors Scholar who, by devoting their time, talents, and expertise to serving the public good, has made significant, demonstrable, and direct contributions to the community. The purpose of this award is to honor students who have demonstrated a dedication to service and have made a profound impact in their community. Christopher Peterson was a junior civil engineering major in the Honors College who tragically lost his life in a car accident in 2013. Through his enthusiastic participation in Greiner Shared Interest Housing (SIH) and his many other volunteer endeavors Chris embodied the Honors College spirit of service. The intent of this award is to recognize a student who exemplifies a similar commitment to community service. The awardee will receive a \$750 award as well as \$250 donated to the community organization of their choice.

Criteria for Eligibility

We seek graduating Honors Scholars who:

- Are in good academic standing with the University Honors College graduation requirements.
- Have impacted society in one or more positive ways that fostered change for the public good.
- Stood out amongst their peers as individuals whose service has made a profound impact in the community.
- Are available to attend the Honors commencement ceremony on **Friday, May 19, 2017**.

Application Process

Any graduating Honors Scholar may apply for the Christopher Peterson Commitment to Service Award. Students who wish to apply must complete an application packet which includes the following:

- (1) Application
- (2) Resume (Must include all of your service experiences)
- (3) Service Reflection Essay
- (4) Name of Community Organization for Donation purposes
- (5) Optional Supplemental materials (e.g., Recommendation letter)

Application Deadline

Please submit the completed application packet to be submitted to the University Honors College Office in 106 Capen Hall or electronically to honors@buffalo.edu by no later than **4:00 p.m.** on **April 3, 2017**.

Section II: Application

Part 1: Personal Information

Name: _____ Person Number: _____
Permanent Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email Address: _____@buffalo.edu Cell Phone: _____
Major(s)/Minor(s): _____ GPA: _____
Expected Graduation Date: _____ Community Organization: _____

Part 2: Service Reflection Essay Criteria

Using 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced formatting, write a 2-3 page reflective essay about your civic engagement story while at the University at Buffalo. Consider the knowledge and skills that you have gained as a result of your service experiences. The central questions we would like you to address include:

- How have you applied what you have learned in the community to the classroom setting, your personal life and your career path?
- What is the most significant thing that you have learned about yourself and/or our community through your service learning endeavors?
- Which community partner would you like to donate the award to and why that organization is important to you? (**Note:** Your chosen organization must have 501c3 status)

Part 3: Application Certification

I certify that the information given above is correct. If I am a recipient of the Honors College Christopher Peterson Service Award, I hereby give permission for my name and photo to be released as the recipient of this scholarship.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Part 4: Further Information

Prior to submitting this application, review the checklist items below to ensure that your application packet is complete:

- Application
- Resume (Must include all of your service experiences)
- Service Reflection Essay
- Name of Community Organization for Donation Purposes
- Optional Supplemental Materials (e.g., Recommendation letter)

Please contact Dr. Tara Jabbaar-Gyambrah, Senior Assistant Director for University Honors College at (716) 645-3020 or via email at jabbaar@buffalo.edu if you have any questions or concerns about the application process.