

## Office for **Equity and Diversity**

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### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

#### **2009 University of Minnesota Undergraduate Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) Awards**

#### **Application Information and Instructions**

##### **AWARD OVERVIEW**

The undergraduate Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) Award program honors outstanding diverse undergraduate students who are currently registered for full-time study at any of the University of Minnesota's campuses. SEED Award recipients are diverse students who demonstrate impressive achievement and leadership in at least ONE of the two following areas:

- Academic performance and engagement with the chosen field of study. The field of study need not be in the areas of equity, diversity, ethnic studies, GLBT studies, etc., but students must demonstrate a high level of commitment and achievement in the area(s) of study they have chosen to pursue at the University of Minnesota.
- Community outreach and activism. Students should demonstrate a high level of commitment to and engagement with a particular issue of social justice, community, and/or community organization. Such community activism can take place on or off any of the University of Minnesota's campuses.

In addition, all undergraduate SEED Award recipients will demonstrate a deep understanding of and commitment to issues of equity, diversity, and social justice through their academic work and/or service to the community. Six to ten undergraduate SEED Awards, ranging from \$1000 to \$3000, are awarded each year.

Students eligible for SEED Awards include:

- Diverse students whose backgrounds and/or identities are underrepresented at the University of Minnesota
- Students who are full-time undergraduate juniors or seniors at any of the University of Minnesota's campuses, with a minimum of four semesters' completed coursework at the University
- Students with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA

**Deadline for SEED Award applications: Friday, September 25, 2009, at 4:30 p.m.**

**GENERAL INFORMATION (Please print clearly)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last MI First

Campus or local address \_\_\_\_\_

Local phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Campus/College of Enrollment \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Major \_\_\_\_\_ G.P.A. (cumulative) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Status (check one):

- Junior (1<sup>st</sup> semester)
- Junior (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)
- Senior (1<sup>st</sup> semester)
- Senior (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)

Number of credits completed at the University of Minnesota \_\_\_\_\_ (60 *minimum*)

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

To give the SEED Award selection committee better insight into your accomplishments and experiences, please compose a personal statement (500 words maximum) in response to the question below. Your personal statement should address how your personal experience with diverse identities has impacted your academic work and/or community service. Please use 12-point, Times Roman font, and double-space your personal statement using margins of at least one inch.

Please respond to the following question:

**In a 2006 report, the University of Minnesota Diversity Task Force asserted “Diversity and excellence are inextricably intertwined.” How does this assertion relate to your own academic experience and/or community service? How has your academic and/or community service work shaped your thinking about issues of equity, diversity, and social justice, and led to your personal growth and achievement?**

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Two letters of recommendation are required for consideration for the SEED Award.

- The first letter of recommendation must be completed by a University of Minnesota faculty member familiar with your academic work.
- The second letter of recommendation may be completed by a second University of Minnesota faculty member, or by a University of Minnesota staff member or member of the external community who is familiar with your academic accomplishments, engagement with issues of social justice, or community activism.

In writing your letters of recommendation, ask your recommenders to answer the following three questions:

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?
2. How has the applicant demonstrated to you his or her commitment to academic achievement and/or community activism?
3. How does the applicant engage with and show leadership around issues of equity, diversity, and/or social justice, in the classroom and/or through his or her community activism?

You may submit your letters of recommendation in one of two ways:

- Your letters may be sent directly from your recommenders to the selection committee. Recommenders should submit letters to the Office for Equity and Diversity by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009 (*see page 4 of this document for mailing information*). **Please note:** All letters must be sealed in an envelope by the recommender, with the recommender's signature over the seal.
- You may include your letters with your final application packet, due to the Office for Equity and Diversity by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009 (*see page 4 of this document for mailing information*). **Please note:** All letters must be sealed in an envelope by the recommender, with the recommender's signature over the seal.

## SUPPORTING MATERIALS

In addition to the items above, please submit the following items in support of your SEED application:

- A copy of your University of Minnesota transcript. An unofficial copy of your transcript, available from the Office of the Registrar at no charge, is sufficient. Unofficial transcripts will be verified for accuracy.
- A résumé outlining your academic, co-curricular, and work/volunteer activities and achievements. Résumés should be no more than two pages in length.

## DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

I do hereby certify that the information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate. All required documentation is enclosed.

I hereby authorize the release of this information as may be required to determine my eligibility for a SEED award.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

A complete SEED Award application packet consists of the following six items. Please put a check mark next to each item to indicate that it is part of your application packet, and fill in the information about your two recommenders in the space provided below. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- 1. The “General Information” sheet (page 2 of this document)
- 2. The “Disclosure Statement” sheet (page 4 of this document) with your signature.
- 3. University of Minnesota transcript
- 4. Personal Statement (500 words maximum)
- 5. Résumé
- 6. Two letters of recommendation, in sealed envelopes with your recommenders’ signature over the seal:
  - My recommendations are included in this packet
  - My recommenders have sent my letters directly to the Office for Equity and Diversity

Please list the names, titles, and e-mail addresses for your two recommenders:

Recommender #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender #2: \_\_\_\_\_

SEED Award application materials are due by **Friday, September 25, 2009, at 4:30 p.m.** to: SEED Awards, Office for Equity and Diversity, 432 Morrill Hall, 100 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis, MN, 55455.