HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION SESSION

Presented by Cassidy Alvarado, Director of ONIF
What is the Truman Scholarship?

- The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation supports the graduate education and professional development of outstanding young people committed to public service leadership.
- A merit-based scholarship for college juniors who plan to pursue careers in government or elsewhere in public service.
- The foundation receives over 600 nominations each year and awards approximately 60 scholarships.
- Since its creation in 1975, the Foundation has supported almost 3,000 Truman Scholars who are making a difference in all corners of the nation and around the globe.
Scholarship Benefits

• *Up to $30,000* toward a public service-related graduate degree at any institution
  
  ▪ Such as: public administration, public policy, public health, law, international relations, government, economics, social services, education, urban planning, conservation and environmental protection, agriculture, biology, engineering, technology, medicine, and environmental management, etc....
Additional Scholarship Benefits

• **Truman Scholars Leadership Week**
  - May 21-26- This event introduces new Scholars to the services provided by the Foundation and the many pathways to public service, and mentoring opportunities

• **Summer Institute**
  - After graduation, Scholars may participate in an eight-week Summer Institute in Washington, DC

• **Truman-Albright and Other Fellows Program**
  - Truman-Albright Fellows are placed in public service jobs while participating in workshops, seminars

• **Students may defer scholarship funding up to four years after graduation**
Eligibility

• Current juniors or students graduating in Spring 2020
  ▪ 3rd year students graduating in Spring 2019 are also eligible to apply

• 3.0 Cumulative GPA or above
  ▪ (in the upper quarter of his or her class)

• Open to United States citizens or US Nationals
Eligibility Continued

• Committed to work in government, education, the nonprofit sector, or the public interest/advocacy sector

• Extensive participation in two or more of the following:
  - Student government and/or campus-based extracurricular activities;
  - Community service-related activities that were not organized by your school or by your fraternity/sorority
  - Government internships, commissions or boards, advocacy or interest groups, nonpartisan political activities, or military/ROTC
  - Partisan political activities and campaigns

• Demonstrated leadership potential and outstanding communication skills
How to Apply

- ONIF must grant you access to the online application
  - Submit ONIF’s waiver form and receive access

- LMU may nominate *up to* **four students** for the national competition
  *An additional 3 transfer students may be nominated*
How to Apply Continued

✓ Complete a policy proposal
  ▪ Define the problem
  ▪ Lay out your proposed solution
  ▪ Identify major obstacles to the implementation of your solution

✓ Complete the 14 answer application
  ▪ Questions 7-14 are essentially a personal statement

✓ Request three letters of recommendation
  ▪ Leadership Abilities & Potential
    • Confirm the experience described in Q7, example of your leadership
  ▪ Commitment to a Career in Public Service
    • Confirm the experience described in Q8, satisfying public service activity
  ▪ Intellect and Prospects for Continuing Academic Success
    • Ideally written by someone who has taught you in the classroom

✓ Unofficial transcripts
The National Section Process

• About 200 Finalists are selected:
  – extent and quality of community service and government involvement
  – leadership record
  – academic performance, writing and analytical skills
  – suitability of the nominee's proposed program of study for a career in public service

• Finalist interviews are in March/early April

• Truman Scholars are selected:
  – leadership potential and communication skills
  – intellectual strength and analytical ability
  – likelihood of 'making a difference' in public service

• If Finalists from a state do not adequately meet each of these criteria, it does not select a scholar from that state. The scholarship will carry over to 2019
Why Apply?

• Learn how to effectively write and articulate your short and long-term goals
  – Do you plan to go to grad school? If so, what degree? And where?
  – Where do you see yourself in 5 years? 10 years?

• Identify gaps in your experience and knowledge base

• Connect with faculty
  – Use this experience to identify recommenders

• Make yourself more competitive for future opportunities

• Become more aware of your strengths, interests, and ways to prepare for your career

• Improve your writing skills and enhance your interviewing skills

• Get a head start in preparing applications for graduate education and scholarship competitions in the senior year
Campus & Community Involvement

• Get involved now!
  – Take on leadership roles
  – Consistent, long term participation

• Keep an electronic record of all campus and community involvement:
  – Dates, i.e. month/year
  – Hours committed
  – Descriptions of roles, responsibilities, and skills gained

• Emphasize activities or roles that relate to the Truman

• Be mindful when describing volunteer work that is required for a course or your major
Internship, Research, & Professional Experience

• Get involved now!
  – Handshake
  – Research Experiences for Undergrads
  – Idealist.org
  – USAJobs

• Focus on areas of interest and possible career paths
• Get to know your peers, supervisors, & colleagues
• Don’t forget to include part time job experience
Important Dates

☑️ **November 30:** Required checkpoint & Applicant Workshop at 12 p.m. Drafts of Q1-14 and policy proposals are due, along with names of recommenders

☑️ **January 7:** LMU campus deadline- all application materials due, including letters of rec

☑️ **January 14-18:** Campus Interviews with Truman Campus Committee

☑️ **January 18:** Applicants will learn if they received LMU’s nomination

☑️ **February 5:** Truman Scholarship national deadline

☑️ **March-April:** Regional review panels and interviews

☑️ **April:** Truman Scholars announced
Additional Resources

- The Truman Website!!!
- ONIF’s website
  - LMU LOR Advice: Truman Scholarship
- Faculty
- Career Professional Development
- Center for Service & Action
- Writing Center
- Penn State's Truman Essay Tips and Samples
Loyola Marymount University
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