

**Announcing the 2009-2010 Academic Year
Invitation for Applicants
And Nominees for**

**The Milan Puskar Leadership Scholars Program
Class of 2009-2010**

Application Deadline of Friday, June 5, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

Eligibility: Those West Virginia University (WVU) undergraduate students selected for the 2009-2010 class of Puskar Scholars will at time of selection:

- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0
- Have completed successfully with a grade of A- (minus) or better LDR 201 (3 cr.), Principles of Leadership, the first core course in the Leadership Studies 18 credit undergraduate degree minor
- Have demonstrated leadership abilities and interests
- Have completed their sophomore year coursework by August, 2009, and have declared the Leadership Studies Minor
- Be willing to give a two year commitment of continuing undergraduate study at WVU
- Be a good campus citizen.

Puskar Scholars may be from any discipline and enrolled in any major field of undergraduate studies at West Virginia University. At the time of application students must be registered for courses at the WVU Morgantown campus with two years of undergraduate study at WVU remaining. Students may remain as Puskar Scholars in their senior year provided they continue to fulfill their promise as leadership studies scholars and future leaders, maintain the requisite grade point average at time of their selection, and prove to be good campus citizens fulfilling the expectations of their program. Each scholar is expected to participate in the various events and activities sponsored and co-sponsored by the Leadership Studies Program, in particular those for Puskar Scholars only.

Application Process: Applications are to be submitted, in writing, in a sealed envelope marked CONFIDENTIAL, addressed and delivered to Puskar Leadership Scholars Program, Leadership Studies, 456 Stansbury Hall, P. O. Box 6896, Eberly College of Arts & Sciences, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W V 26506-6896. The application must be received **by Friday, 4:00 p.m., June 5, 2009**. To be considered, applications must include:

1. A current, informal copy of the student's WVU academic course transcript with grades awarded through spring 2009 and courses scheduled for fall 2009
2. A type written essay by the applicant describing (a) why and how he/she became interested in leadership and (b) leadership-related intentions after completion of the WVU undergraduate degree, and any intended graduate education (four page maximum, double spaced, minimum 12 point pitch/font)
3. A type written list (one page maximum, also double spaced, minimum 12 point pitch/font) of leadership-oriented activities in which the applicant has participated (a) while attending WVU and other university or college undergraduate programs and (b) in the four year period immediately preceding enrollment as a freshman at WVU (or at another institution if a transfer student). The activities listed may have occurred during the high school years or post-high school activities that occurred in that same four year, pre-WVU, freshman year time period.
4. Complete contact information for three references who can speak to the applicant's leadership interests, accomplishments, and/or potential. At least one of these references must be related to the applicant's academic achievement to date at WVU, and potential academic achievement.

Nominations: Nominations of deserving and qualified students at WVU are accepted if (a) those nominations are received in writing via mail or email (email preferred), (b) full contact information for the nominee is included, and (c) the nominee is able to complete and submit the required application by the deadline. Whether applicants apply directly or as result of nomination shall have no bearing on selection. All nominations are to be sent to Dr. Larry Cote, 456 Stansbury Hall, P.O. Box 6896, Morgantown, WV 26506 (Larry.Cote@mail.wvu.edu).

The Puskar Scholars Program: A generous gift from Milan "Mike" Puskar—philanthropist, successful business entrepreneur, loyal WVU Mountaineer, and influential leader committed to greater prosperity and competitive success for all West Virginia, made this program possible in mid-2007. This is a student enrichment program in support of the WVU Leadership Studies Program and Academic Minor introduced in fall 2006 at West Virginia University. Program sponsored activities will enable each Puskar Scholar to complement, extend, and enhance the scholar's academic experiences and skill-building as an emerging leader.

For the first two years the funding for the Puskar Scholar's Program enabled each scholar to participate in group and individualized enrichment experiences. Activities included:

- One scholar attended a national "Ethics on Campus" conference at West Point Military Academy

- A field trip to Washington, DC to meet with staff of the West Virginia congressional delegation, tours of numerous important government and historical sites commemorating public and quiet acts of leadership. The trip included a stop on the way home for an interpretative visit to the Gettysburg Civil War battlefield and Dwight Eisenhower's home to gain understanding of distinctive acts of leadership in the crucible of war
- Interaction and networking for guidance and career development with campus and community leaders and WVU alumni
- An additional travel allocation for Puskar Scholars for individually or small group selected and approved field trips and/or event attendance to enhance their understanding of leaders-in-action
- A book and/or information media allowance
- Attendance at Hatton Sumners National Student Leadership Conference hosted by The Center for Ethical Leadership, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas – Austin
- Full participation in the annual West Virginia Leadership Conference (April of each year)
- Small group interaction and colloquia with a national leader committed to greater involvement of women in the field of engineering and leadership, and with a seasoned corporate human resources executive discussing difficult, leader-to-leader discipline situations
- Conceived, hosted a Recognition Dinner and Lecture in honor of the founding graduates with a minor in Leadership Studies
- Co-sponsored with WVU SGA (Student Government Association) and LSSA (Leadership Studies Student Association) the 1st and 2nd Annual West Virginia Student Leadership Symposia
- A part of a WVU team of faculty and students attending an international student conference in the Middle East

Puskar Scholars Selection Committee: As prescribed by the endowment instrument, selection of successful applicants will be made “by a Committee chaired by the Director of the Leadership Studies Program and will include representation from the Office of the Dean, Division of Public Administration, and a member of the faculty outside the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences.” For the 2009-2010 academic year and thereafter each spring, eligible WVU juniors will be invited to apply to become a Puskar Scholar following completion and award of course grades for the second semester of their sophomore year.

The 2009-2010 Selection Committee is:

Dr. Lawrence S. Cote, Extension Professor and Director, Leadership Studies Program, WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (chairman)

Dr. Neil S. Bucklew, Professor, Division of Management and Industrial Relations, College of Business and Economics and 20th President of West Virginia University

Dr. Lisa DeFrank-Cole, Director of ASPIRE, WVU Honors College

Dr. L. Christopher Plein, Associate Professor and Chair, Division of Public Administration and Assistant Dean, School of Applied Social Sciences, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences

For Further Information:

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