



**Women in Public Finance
Virginia Chapter
Sponsored
2022 Mary Blackwell Barnes Memorial Scholarship**

Virginia Women in Public Finance is a non-profit, educational, and professional networking organization for women in the public finance industry. Governed by a 9-member board of directors representing the areas of finance, banking, and law, the organization also sponsors a variety of philanthropic events to support women's efforts.

What is Public Finance?

Public finance generally refers to how governments raise and spend money. Individuals who work in public finance help governments at all levels—federal, state, and local—obtain the necessary financial resources to pay for certain services, including but not limited to, schools, roads, parks, water, police and fire protection, libraries, and health care.

The Mary Blackwell Barnes Memorial Scholarship

Virginia Women in Public Finance has a scholarship program that provides, annually, up to five recipients with a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to \$5,000. The scholarship is named in honor of Mary Blackwell Barnes, a dedicated servant of public finance. Mary passed away in 2009 at the age of 44, but her memory lives on through the contributions she made to public finance in Virginia. The *purpose* of The Mary Blackwell Barnes Memorial Scholarship program is to:

- 1) Recognize enrolled female college or graduate level students who have exhibited scholastic achievement and demonstrated leadership skills;
- 2) Encourage the consideration of careers in finance and, more specifically, public finance; and
- 3) Provide an opportunity for award recipients to meet women established in the public finance area and expose women to various career options and opportunities.

Application and Eligibility Requirements:

To *qualify* and *apply* for The Mary Blackwell Barnes Memorial Scholarship, the applicant must, at a minimum:

- 1) Identify as a female student enrolled in a Virginia or District of Columbia college or university in the fall of 2022 with sophomore (2nd year) status or higher (including graduate students);
- 2) Exhibit leadership skills through extracurricular activities, volunteer positions, and/or work experiences;
- 3) Have an interest in pursuing a career in public finance whether in the sector of finance, government, nonprofits, or public law.

Applications must be electronically submitted and received by May 31, 2022 by 11:59 pm to the Virginia Women in Public Finance Scholarship Committee e-mail: scholarship@virginiawpf.com.

Submissions should include:

- ✓ A fully completed 2022 Mary Blackwell Barnes Memorial Scholarship Application Form
- ✓ 2 essays (personal and career)
- ✓ The most recent official or unofficial college transcript

Be sure the email address provided is one that is regularly checked since our communication will be by email. Direct any questions to Misty Upson, Scholarship Chair, at scholarship@virginiawpf.com.

Selection and Recognition:

The Scholarship Committee may elect to conduct phone interviews as part of the selection process. Each submission will be independently evaluated by members of the Scholarship Committee. Recipients will be notified of award selection in early August 2022.

The Scholarship Committee of Virginia Women in Public Finance will select up to five recipients based on the qualifications of the candidate and the thoroughness of the completed application. Each recipient will be awarded The Mary Blackwell Barnes Memorial Scholarship in an amount of \$1,000 to \$5,000. The scholarship will be paid directly to the award recipient's educational institution to pay qualified educational expenses on behalf of the award recipient. The award recipient(s), along with a parent, guardian, or professor, will be invited to accept the scholarship at a Virginia Women in Public Finance event to be held in September of 2022 in Richmond. (Note: Attendance at the event is not required to receive the scholarship. We will review the health situation and determine whether an in person or virtual meeting setting is most appropriate).

Name:

Current Address:

In your own words, describe public finance. What career within the public finance area are you interested in pursuing and why?

How do you envision using your education to impact the public finance industry?

Submit your essays with your application as separate pdf documents. Please double-space your essay responses. Include your name and email address on each sheet.

Career Essay - Please write an essay on one of the two options listed below. Indicate your selected option by checking the appropriate box. This essay helps us understand your career goals and what has influenced those goals. Please limit your response to no more than 500 words.

- Option 1: Describe your career and educational goals and who or what has influenced these goals.
- Option 2: Describe your favorite work experience and explain how this experience has helped shape or change your thoughts about possible career options.

Personal Essay - Please write a personal essay on one of the three options listed below. Indicate your selected option by checking the appropriate box. This personal essay helps us become acquainted with you as a person, apart from courses, grades, and other objective data. It will also demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself. Please limit your response to no more than 500 words.

- Option 1: Describe an interest you have pursued outside of your college classes (e.g. independently or through a student organization, part-time work, sports, playing in a band, volunteering, etc.) and the knowledge or skills you have gained as a result of this interest.
- Option 2: Describe a goal you set for yourself and achieved. Explain how you achieved it.
- Option 3: Evaluate an experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.

Disclaimer: Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their applications are received by the deadline date. Women in Public Finance, Virginia Chapter, will not consider applications that arrive late, regardless of the reason.