



**Women in Public Finance
Virginia Chapter**
Sponsored
**2015 Mary Blackwell Barnes Memorial Scholarship
Overview**

Virginia Women in Public Finance is a non-profit, educational, and professional networking organization for women in the public finance industry. Governed by an 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—national, 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 Overview

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

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

- 1) Be a female student returning to a Virginia or District of Columbia college or university in the fall of 2015;
- 2) Exhibit leadership skills through extracurricular activities, volunteer positions, and/or work experiences;
- 3) Have an interest in pursuing a career in finance, government, nonprofits, or public law; and
- 4) Complete and submit the attached 2015 Mary Blackwell Barnes Memorial Scholarship application form including the required essays **along with a photocopy of your most recent official or unofficial college transcript** via e-mail or mail so that the application is **RECEIVED no later than May 31, 2015** to:

Virginia Women in Public Finance Scholarship Committee
PO Box 129
Richmond, VA 23219
e-mail: scholarship@virginiawpcf.org

Selection and Recognition

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 the fall of 2015. (Note: Attendance at the event is not required to receive the scholarship, but **attendance is strongly encouraged.**)

The Scholarship Committee may elect to conduct phone interviews as part of the selection process.

Name:

Current Address:

Please describe your interests in pursuing a career in public finance, government, or public service.

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

- 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 next to it. 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 and provide us with the word count.

- 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.

Attach your essays to your application on separate sheets of paper (same size please). Please double-space your essay responses. Include your name and current address on each sheet.

One last reminder: please also submit a photocopy of your most recent official or unofficial college transcript along with your application.

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.