

Richter Scholarship

School of Social Work, Texas State University

The Dorothy Jean and Walter Richter Scholarship honors their steadfast dedication to promoting the common good in our society through distinguished life-long public service.

- **Eligibility:** Both a BSW and a MSW student in good standing who are currently enrolled and/or officially admitted to the program during academic year 2018-19
- **Award:** Two \$1600 scholarships for 2018-19 academic year (one BSW and one MSW student)
- **Selection Criteria:**
 - BSW applicant must show an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 and MSW applicant must show an undergraduate and/or graduate GPA of at least 3.0 as verified by official transcript provided by the SSW office
 - Applicant must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 during the duration of the scholarship as verified by the SSW office
 - Submit resume with volunteer and/or work experience in public policy work
 - Submit cover letter including:
 - Commitment to policy practice in public sector
 - Current interests and past activities in policy practice in public sector
 - Clearly articulate two professional goals that include public policy
 - Prepare and submit an original policy analysis (3-5 page paper, double spaced, APA format) see instructions attached.

■ **Application and submission:**

Submit all application criteria (transcript, resume, cover letter, policy analysis paper) electronically to Dr. KeriAnne Moon (kmm255@txstate.edu) no later than Tuesday, November 20, 2018 by 5:00pm. The complete application should consist of one document labelled as ScholarshipName.YourLastName. It should include all the information necessary (see selection criteria) for review. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. All correspondence will be via TXST email only. You will be notified through your TXST email no later than December 10, 2018. You may apply for as many School of Social Work Scholarships as you would like but you will only be awarded one. Thank you!

Direct questions to Dr. KeriAnne Moon, kmm255@txstate.edu

Policy Analysis for the Richter Scholarship

Start with a “prospectus” (background) on the policy. It is to include:

1. Describe the history of the issue in the local community and in the state or nation, and any rationale for implementing such a policy in the first place.
2. Description of the problems that necessitated the policy, including the issue using data (local, state and national—obtained from relevant research) and whom the project affects. When? Where? How?
3. Description of the current policy and the effect it has on the oppressed population.
4. Analysis of the policy, including political goals and their political, economic, and administrative feasibility.

Suggestion: Begin with a large issue and keep narrowing it down to a very specific policy change.

You will need to find out as much as possible about the who, what, when, where, how, and why of the chosen policy, including the players, the rules, and the formal and informal power structures. What are the politics and societal values surrounding the issue?

The paper should include the reliability of the information and possible political problems related to the facts. For example: Was the information obtained from someone who could be affected by a policy change and may have a “motive” for not giving complete or accurate information?

After the prospectus is complete:

1. Review the information through a social work ethical lens to be clear on how the problem can and should be addressed.
2. Ask every possible question about the problem you have identified. Ask “what if” questions. If the policy were changed one way, what would happen to the clients and to the organization? Remember, for every policy change there will be some negative fallout. What are the policy implications of your proposed changes? Look at policy from a broad perspective by considering agency policy, local policy, state policy, and national policy. The team may have to do more fact-finding.
3. List the questions you have considered in analyzing the policy issue, and then give your conclusions.

Remember that your aim is to develop a policy to implement that will be the best possible solution to remedy the social injustice affecting the target population, and to make the policy more just for the target population. Be specific about what you want to accomplish.

Websites that may be helpful

www.congressmerge.com

Find out who represents you in Congress, how to contact them and schedule of hearings.

www.afj.org

The Alliance for Justice works to shape public policy that deeply affects our communities.

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www.aclu.org	Keep up to date on issues that are relevant to safeguarding American values and freedom as outlined in the Constitution.
www.aphsa.org	Information and directories promoting information to improve well-being of children, families and adults.
www.apwa.org	Keep up to date on issues and policies regarding equal opportunities in many areas including workplace and education.
www.cppp.org	The Center for Public Policy Priorities, in Austin. A Texas nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank that focuses on workforce and economic development; access to public benefits, including health care, food, and cash assistance; child protection; school finance; state and federal tax and budget analysis; and family economic security. CPPP is also the Texas home to KIDS COUNT, a state-by-state effort to track and promote the well-being of children.
www.cgr.org	Site has information and links to nonpartisan research and analysis can greatly improve public policy.
www.clasp.org	Find publications related to family economic security, civil legal assistance, child welfare and teen issues among other topics that are available to print and distribute free of charge.
www.cbpp.org	Find information regarding current issues relating to budget and policy affecting low- and moderate-income people.
www.childwelfare.com	A directory for child welfare information, includes child welfare agencies, reporting, articles, statistics, links to children waiting to be adopted.
www.indepsec.org	Focuses on a number of key issues facing the nonprofit and philanthropic community.
www.igc.org/igc	Some might consider this a “radical” website with viewpoints on current issues dealing with women, economy, racism, and peace.
www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp	Contains research findings on causes and consequences of poverty and information on past legislation regarding poverty.
www.iwpr.org	Public policy research information designed to inform and stimulate the debate on public policy issues of critical importance to women and their families.
www.ncsconline.org	Contains extensive databases on courts, with a search engine to locate information on specific topics.
www.ncl.org	National network of publications and news sharing to help community problem solving issues.
www.ncsl.org	Contains information on current legislation, upcoming meetings/seminars and has current and archived news regarding legislation.

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www.nga.org

Information from Governor's meetings; access copy of State of the State addresses.

www.nmci.org/nmci

Information, publications and conference schedules to help strengthen individuals, organizations and communities in a diverse workplace environment.

www.ncjrs.org

Access listings of abstracts, updated weekly and publications on Wide variety of issues in law enforcement, courts, juvenile justice and drugs and crime.

www.nw.org

Information on national initiatives, community and resource development, training, public policy and legislative affairs, publications and links to related information.

www.ombwatch.org

Information tracking White House Office of Management and Budget, bi-weekly newsletter posted.

www.pfaw.org

Links to organizations nationwide, locate your representatives, latest headlines relating to information that sustain a diverse democratic society.

www.census.gov

Find results of 2000 census, including projections for population for all states for five years, poverty information, look up census information on specific addresses, find census offices.

www.urban.org

Offers information on items in news, research on many topics, search from list of many experts in various fields for publications they have written and links to policy centers.