



WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE
VIRGINIA CHAPTER

**Women in Public Finance
Virginia Chapter
Sponsored
2021 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 2021 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, 2021 by 11:59 pm to the Virginia Women in Public Finance Scholarship Committee e-mail: scholarship@virginiawpcf.org.

Submissions should include:

- ✓ A fully completed 2021 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 check since our communication will be by email. Direct any questions to Misty Upson, Scholarship Chair, at scholarship@virginiawpcf.org.

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 2021.

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 2021. (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).