

## **Donald A. Strauss Scholarship Foundation**

Donald A. Strauss, of Newport Beach, California, was always keenly interested in politics--national, state, county, or city--and believed that “the best and the brightest” students could and would make a difference. Toward that end, he endowed scholarships and internships at many colleges and universities. After his death in 1995, his wife Dorothy established the Donald A. Strauss Scholarship Foundation to empower students to carry out their vision for social change in the public arena. No fewer than ten and no more than fifteen \$10,000 scholarships are awarded annually, to fund student-designed and implemented public service projects.

### **What We Are Looking For in Project Proposals...**

- Innovation and timeliness: an idea, angle or approach that has not been pursued widely and/or that addresses important current issues.
- A “multiplier effect”, where other students or local participants become engaged in public service.
- Planning: a budget; a realistic timeline for the year-long project; implementation details.
- Projects with direct public impact and a way to measure that impact.
- Project Continuity/Sustainability: Leadership succession has been envisioned and worked into the organizational plan.
- If the project is to be done with a parent/partner institution, proof of an established relationship with that organization. Ideally, this is verified by a letter of recommendation from the parent/partner institution.
- A connection with your passion, life experience.
- Your vision of the *service* or *social change* component needs to be both clear and integral to the project. The project needs to focus on more than research, development of a website, tutoring or creation of a publication. We want your passion and leadership for a sustained public service project, rather than a one or two day event.

**(over)**

## WHO SHOULD APPLY

The Foundation will award scholarships to full time students at the 16 pre-selected four-year California colleges or universities who have

- one year remaining until graduation.
- a GPA in the upper 1/3 of his or her class.
- demonstrated an interest in public service.
- outstanding leadership potential.
- developed and can demonstrate effective communication skills.
- the desire “ to make a difference” in local, regional, national or international communities.

## HOW TO APPLY

The Application Procedure begins at your college or university. Your institution will nominate three students for the award from the applications they receive before their deadline. (Please check the Foundation website, [www.straussfoundation.org](http://www.straussfoundation.org) , for specific contact information, dates and application forms.)

### **All applications must include**

- an official transcript from all colleges attended.
- Two or three letters of recommendation from individuals who are well acquainted with your academic or service work: current or former professors, employers, community or public service organizations.
- a one page personal essay, not to be confused with the resume
- a one page resume – including current and past community service.
- an application summary (on website).
- a four page Project Proposal. (see samples on website)
- a signed copy of the Acceptance Agreement (on website).

**NEED MORE INFORMATION? CHECK US OUT AT**

[www.straussfoundation.org](http://www.straussfoundation.org)