2017/2018 Student Grant Program
Call and Instructions for Applicants

WFI Student Grant Program
The WFI—endowed by Mr. Lawrence Waterhouse, Jr., and housed within Villanova University’s Department of Communication—was founded on the principle that scholars, students, activists, and practitioners of communication have an important role to play in the creation of a socially just world. In addition to our WFI Research Grant program, which supports the work of Communication scholars engaging questions of social justice, we are pleased to announce the creation of a program geared to undergraduate students interested in engaging Communication and social justice! This is the newest example of the Student-Centered Activities sponsored by the WFI!

Call for Student Grant Proposals
This student-focused grant program was inspired by a wonderful proposal submitted to the WFI, exactly in line with our mission, but designed and directed by undergraduate students—and so ineligible for our existing research grant program. Moved by the proposal, in Summer 2014 the WFI provided a grant of $12,660 to three Villanova undergraduate alums: Lauren Colegrove, Andrew Balamaci, and Nashia Kamal. Building on relationships they had established through Villanova’s (WFI-funded) Social Justice Documentary Film Program, they proposed to teach journalism and reporting skills to the high school students at Heritage Academy in Essiam, Ghana, and, further, to help the school establish a newspaper for their students.

Subsequently, we awarded our first WFI Student Grant for 2016-17 to two students from Xavier University of Louisiana, Andre Morgan, Jr. and Kianna Greene, guided by their faculty advisor, Dr. Kimberly J. Chandler. Their project, which was awarded our full amount of $10,000, was entitled “Performing Resistance in the Big Easy: Social Justice and the African American GLBTQ Community in New Orleans.”

Following in the footsteps of these wonderful student-drive projects, each year the WFI will award up to $10,000 to support an undergraduate student-driven project that demonstrates an innovative connection between communication and social justice. These projects:

• must center upon undergraduate (not graduate) students in Communication, although faculty may be involved as advisors and/or instructors of record;
• must meaningfully connect Communication students to the creation of social change/social justice;
• must have tangible outcomes related to advocacy and/or social justice;
• must be primarily carried out during Fall 2017 and/or Spring 2018.

Eligibility
WFI Student Grants are available to project leaders who are full-time undergraduate students enrolled in good standing at any US institution of higher education. Although we do not limit our grants to a specific area of Communication, or particular kind of communication advocacy, all projects supported by the WFI have two things in common: they draw upon and engage topics central to the study and practice of Communication; and they engage specifically engage communication in terms of its impact on the world around us, its ability to create social change.

Awards
Awards will be no greater than $10,000 for the 2017-18 academic year. The total number of grants awarded will vary, based upon budgetary constraints; however, most typically only one WFI Student Grant will be awarded each year. Funds granted by the WFI and Villanova University (as an educational institution) may be applied to the acquisition of resources or equipment, technology, travel, event planning and/or any other appropriate project related expenses. However, these funds may not be used to provide or supplement faculty or student salaries. In addition, the WFI and Villanova (as an educational institution) do not provide funds for indirect costs associated with any grant. Each submitted proposal should include a budget that clearly indicates how granted funds will be used, and that these funds will not be construed as salary or as indirect costs.

Application Process
Applicants for the WFI student grant program should submit formal proposals to the Director of the Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society, Dr. Bryan Crable (bryan.crable@villanova.edu). All applications will be evaluated by a joint faculty and student committee convened by the WFI Director. Proposals for 2017/2018 WFI Student Grants are due on Monday, April 24, 2017. Proposals received after this date will not receive consideration for support, but may be resubmitted the following year. Review of proposals will be completed within one month. Funds will be available in July 2017, for use during the 2017-18 academic year.

Proposals should be submitted through our online system, which can be accessed by visiting the following website: https://wfi.submittable.com/submit/76757/wfi-2017-18-student-grant-program
You will be asked to create a Submittable account (if you don’t currently have one); the website will take you through the process of submitting your application, and will allow you to upload files to support this application. You will be asked to provide contact information for the student(s) who will be directing the project, along with the title of your project.

In addition, you will be prompted by the website to upload the following 3 files:
1. Abstract: Provide an abstract of your project along with the names and contact information of all students and faculty involved with the project. Be sure to identify the college/university affiliations of all involved.
2. Faculty letter of support: This file should consist of a 1-2 page letter of support for the project, written by the faculty member(s) who will serve as facilitators, guides, and/or mentors for the project. This letter should be on official letterhead, and should include a description of the faculty member’s role in the project, and a clear and specific evaluation of the proposed project’s potential for both success and impact.
3. **PROPOSAL.** This should use an abbreviated title as the file name (e.g., educationreform-philly_proposal.pdf). This file should be no more than 10 pages in length (single-spaced, 12 point font, 1” margins), and should include the following elements:

- **Rationale:** (a) a clear statement summarizing the goals of the project and importance of the topic, (b) a description of how the proposed project exemplifies the mission of the WFI, and (c) a description of the potential audience(s) for and concrete impact of the project—in other words, the rationale should answer the questions: what are you proposing, why should we fund it, and who will benefit from your completed project?

- **Proposal:** (a) brief discussion of the origin of the project (how did this idea come about? From a class? Service learning project? Outside activism/community work?), (b) a clear statement of the project’s design. Take us through any theoretical/conceptual/research-based framework and/or methodology that is driving the project. Describe what you plan to do, and be as specific as possible in talking through those details. Describe any community groups/campus groups that are involved, and how you are positioned to meaningfully engage with them, (c) bibliography, and, if applicable, (d) statement explaining any ethical considerations (e.g., human subjects review) related to the proposed project.

- **Time schedule:** a description of the stages of the project and its expected beginning and ending dates.

- **Outcome section:** a description of the what the results of your project will be—the outcomes that will serve as evidence of the success of the project.

- **Budget:** A complete list of all resources and financial support needed for the project should be provided. This should also include a list and brief description of any other sources of funding for the proposed project (grants from your home college/university, awards, etc.).

**Evaluation Process**

Evaluation will be proceed according to the standards of scholarly peer review. The following criteria will be used by the Director and the evaluation committee to judge the merits of each proposal:

- The proposal includes all information requested, and is formatted according to guidelines.
- The proposal has a clear rationale and a set of well-defined objectives which will advance the understanding of communication as central to social change and social justice.
- The proposed project addresses timely and important topics, in a novel or innovative way.
- The proposal demonstrates the power of students to engage in meaningful communication activism.
- The project is judged as feasible, given the time schedule, the amount of support requested, and the resources available to the project leader(s).
- The funding requested is appropriate to the scope of the project, and the budget conforms to WFI guidelines.

**Outcomes Report**

Successful grant recipients will be required to submit a brief progress report to the WFI Director midway through the timeline proposed, indicating progress toward the project’s goals. Following the completion of the project, grant recipients may be asked to present the results of a project supported by a WFI grant on Villanova’s campus, to provide an interview to be published on the WFI’s or Villanova’s website, or to summarize initial results in a WFI or Villanova University
publication. Recipients will also be required to complete a final report, summarizing the outcome of the project supported by the grant. Recipients are requested to submit this report no later than 12 months after receiving the grant. **Failure to submit a report may result in a suspension of the host college/university from the grant program; i.e., future student submissions from this college/university will not be considered until a final report has been submitted to the WFI.**

**WFI Recognition**

All WFI-supported student projects that receive media coverage (or are featured in other promotional publications/outlets) are required to include an acknowledgement of the support of Villanova University’s Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society—and to provide a copy to the WFI’s director.