

Paula Jorde Bloom Scholarship: FAQs and Tips for Success

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the application questions?

- Please describe your current work as an emerging or aspiring leader in Early Childhood Education and explain how attending Leadership Connections strengthen your leadership skills in Early Childhood Education? Please describe and give specific examples.
- How do you currently advocate for young children and their families? If possible, please provide specific examples, including positive outcomes achieved through your advocacy activities.
- The Leadership Connections tracks are based on the [Whole Leadership Framework](#). Which domain (leadership essentials, administrative leadership, or pedagogical leadership) do you identify as the one where you have the most growth potential? Please explain why you have chosen that specific domain.
- Describe a new skill that you learned in another training or conference. How has that skill impacted your work with young children and families?

Is there a limit to the length of responses to the application questions?

- Responses are limited to 1800 characters (approx. 250-350 words) for each bulleted question above. Please read the questions carefully. For each, you will be asked to give specific examples to demonstrate experience, knowledge, and a desire to grow in your leadership development.

Do I need to send a letter of support?

- Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to include a letter of support from someone familiar with their work in early childhood education. You can upload the letter of support with your application, or you can email your letter by the application deadline, October 30, to Katherine Agle: LeadershipConnections@nl.edu

How are scholarship awardees selected?

- A committee composed of McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership staff will review and consider all complete scholarship applications.

When will recipients be notified of their scholarship award?

- Kimberlee Hendricks, Interim Executive Director of the McCormick Center, will telephone the scholarship recipient, and they will also be notified via email by December 15, 2023.
- All applicants will be notified via email by December 22, 2023.

What if I have already registered for Leadership Connections?

- Scholarship recipient who has already registered for Leadership Connections will be reimbursed.

How will I know if my application has been received?

- Confirmation emails will be sent to all applicants who complete and submit applications before the deadline.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

General Tips

- Read the application information and questions thoroughly.
- Mark your calendar with the application deadline.
- Request a letter of support well before the deadline. Items in a letter of support may include:
 - Explanation of how the scholarship may impact the applicant's ability to attend the conference.
 - Description of times the applicant has taken initiative to positively impact young children and their families.
 - Knowledge of the applicant's education, work, and/or potential for growth as an emerging or aspiring leader in the field of early childhood education.
- Review the questions and write several drafts before finalizing your application.
- Use spell check and a grammar check application to double-check your writing. Reading your responses aloud and having a trusted friend or colleague proofread for you are also recommended.

Before submitting your application:

- Are you submitting before the deadline?
- Is your contact information correct?
- Have you included your letter of support?
- Have you responded to all of the questions in the application?
- Have you cleared your calendar and made arrangements to be fully available to attend Leadership Connections, if selected?
- Is all your documentation appropriately formatted (as .doc or .pdf)?