

Coffelt Public Service Award

Awards for projects focused on service to at-risk children in the Charlottesville community

Open to undergraduate or graduate students who will return to UVA the semester after winning the award

Students from any and all disciplines | Individuals or Collaborations

This award was established by UVA College alumnus Robert M. Coffelt, Jr. in honor of his mother, Annetta J. Coffelt and his father, Robert M. Coffelt. Having grown personally as a member of the Alpha Phi Omega (A.P.O.) community service fraternity and the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, and through his previous work on a U.Va. psychiatric ward, Mr. Coffelt desires to instill in current students the importance of giving of themselves to the community in which they live. In December of 2014, Mr. Coffelt formally asked that OpenGrounds hold an annual competition for the Service Award. Through conversations with Founding Director Bill Sherman, Mr. Coffelt recognizes that OpenGrounds offers the ideal network and structure to use the award in a way that will generate significant impact for university students and the communities they serve.

Call for Research Proposals

The Coffelt Public Service Award funds research-based community service projects intended to help both UVA students and youth in the community find meaning by engaging in a mutually beneficial collaboration. Proposed projects should help Charlottesville youth to gain autonomy and discover purpose in their lives. The Coffelt Public Service Award emphasizes both public service and research such that UVA students and non-profit partners learn from each other as they plan and execute annual projects to benefit children in any of the following categories: at-risk or ill children, children who do not have the benefit of stable households, or children whose families live in depressed socioeconomic circumstances in the Charlottesville-area community.

While there is no specific age restriction on the children served, proposed projects should focus on younger children in the Charlottesville community. Projects may also involve youth who are not at-risk or otherwise disadvantaged. An example may be involving a teenager in mentoring an at-risk elementary school student.

Award recipients should identify a faculty research mentor and an organizational partner (UVA or community-based).

The award will offer support for up to one year, and can be split between direct stipend and expendable funds for the project. For example, if the available award is \$2,000, then \$300 could be distributed as a stipend and \$1,700 be set aside for expendable costs. The number of awards given and the exact amount disbursed will depend upon the number and quality of applications and the budgets of the proposed projects.

The selection committee will include representatives from the following groups: U.Va. students, staff, faculty and community members.

Outcomes

Winning students will be expected to share the knowledge and lessons gained through this experience through publication and/or public presentation(s). Students will also be required to submit a final report, which will provide an overview of the work completed throughout the course of the project as well as a written reflection on the experience, what they have learned, and how this project has impacted their thinking or plans for the future.

Timeline

February 17, 2016:	Call for proposals issued
March 15, 2016:	Research proposals due
April 11, 2016:	Student Scholars announced
Week of April 18, 2016:	Orientation Meeting
September 2016:	Interim progress report due
March 2017:	Draft report of research results/presentation plans
April 2017:	Public presentation
May 2017:	Final Report due

Submission Requirements

Submissions are due on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 by 11:59 pm

Send all submission materials to opengrounds@virginia.edu

- **Resume/CV (1 page):** Focus on experiences relevant to your project idea.
- **2 Letters of Support (1 page each):** **One letter should be from the faculty mentor, and the other from the organizational partner, to** confirm that you have engaged them in the project and that they are willing to support your work.
- **Abstract (150 words):** Please provide a detailed description of the project.
- **Intent/Goals (200 words):** What do you hope to achieve with this project? How will you know if you meet your goals?
- **Methods (200 words):** How will you achieve the goals you have outlined for this project? Who will be your partner organization?
- **Products/Outcomes (200 words):** What are the expected outcomes? How do you envision sharing your project with the public?
- **Proposed Budget (1 page):** Please be as detailed as possible.