

P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Webinar



**INTERNATIONAL PEACE
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Presented by the IPS Board of Trustees:

Karen Neylon, Chair

Bobbie Gervais

Veselina Hristova Jones

Welcome

➤ Introductions

- Karen Neylon - PSP Missouri
- Bobbie Gervais - PSP North Carolina
- Veselina Hristova Jones - PSP Massachusetts
- Stacey Tetzloff - IPS Office Supervisor
- Kay Ebert – Second Vice President of the P.E.O. International Executive Board, IPS Liaison

➤ Agenda

- General purpose and procedures about IPS
- Primary responsibilities of s/p/d chairs

Purpose

- The P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship (IPS) Fund provides scholarships to international women pursuing graduate degrees in the U.S. and Canada to foster global peace through education.
 - IPS is the only project for international women
 - IPS scholarships are awarded based on both merit and need
 - IPS is the only project where chapters do not sponsor candidates

Eligibility

- A woman is eligible for consideration for an IPS Scholarship if she:
 - is a citizen from outside the United States and Canada and is seeking an advanced degree from an accredited college or university in the U.S. or Canada
 - has a full year of coursework remaining and is enrolled and in residence in the U.S. or Canada for the entire school year
 - plans to return to her home country to utilize her education to make a positive impact and foster global peace
 - Or is an international student attending Cottey College
 - This is the only time IPS awards are made to international undergraduate students

IPS and Cottey College

- ▶ The trustees have been working directly with Cottey staff this year to make the application process as smooth as possible to increase the number of international students we can support at Cottey.
- ▶ International undergraduate students studying at Cottey College are eligible to apply for an IPS scholarship for up to \$6,250 per year for up to 4 years (total of \$25,000).
- ▶ If they don't use all the funds while at Cottey and they continue their education in the U.S. and Canada, they are eligible to apply for an IPS scholarship as a graduate student.

Eligibility

- We received questions about Native American students and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students being eligible for IPS. Neither of those groups is eligible for IPS:
 - Native Americans are U.S. citizens.
 - DACA students are undocumented. They are neither U.S. citizens nor considered international students holding a student visa. In 2015, legal counsel advised that none of the P.E.O. projects include DACA students because it would be very administratively difficult to make sure we were compliant.

Process

- The applicant fills out an eligibility form online between **September 15 and December 15**. As of today, we have already received 466.
- If she meets the eligibility requirements, she is sent an application form:
 - for renewal students (students seeking a second IPS scholarship) and for those already studying in the U.S. and Canada the deadline is **February 1**.
 - for those who have not started their program yet or are attending Cottey College the deadline is **March 15**.
- Renewal applications are given priority, and the majority are approved for a second scholarship.
- Both first-time and renewal applications are considered based on **merit and financial need**.

Awards

- The maximum annual award for graduate students is \$12,500.
- For the 2024-2025 academic year, 2,172 applications were sent out.
- Trustees reviewed 594 completed applications and awarded 205 scholarships for a total of \$2,255,750. Please know figures are updated annually in May on the P.E.O. International website.
- In general, the trustees can fund about 30% of the applications received.
 - If there were funds available, at least another 20% of the applicants could be awarded since the caliber of applicants is that high!
 - Post pandemic, donations to IPS have been flat compared to the other P.E.O. Projects, so we appreciate your efforts in spreading the word about IPS and the role IPS plays in women's lives.

Student Outcomes

- We rely on the student to report to us their plans.
 - IPS strongly encourages students to return to their home country or go to another country upon completion of their degree.
 - P.E.O. is not the entity enforcing a student's return to her home country. The student visa regulations limit their time in the U.S. or Canada.
 - We also need to keep in mind that students may choose to continue their studies beyond a master's degree, or those only in the early stages of their doctoral degree, will likely be in the U.S. or Canada well beyond the 1 to 2 years of IPS funding.

Student Outcomes

- IPS supports international women pursuing higher education because P.E.O. believes that educating women is fundamental to world peace and understanding.
 - IPS support is both tangible (scholarship funds) and non-tangible (support and motivation from P.E.O. sisters and chapters through the Partners in Peace Program).
 - IPS support contributes to the students' families, communities, home nations and, ultimately, the world at large.

Partners in Peace Program (PIP)

- A single **donation of \$500 or more** to IPS before **January 31** and have an IPS recipient partnered with them in September of that year. The donation can come from the local chapter or an individual and the partnership is between the local chapter and the IPS recipient.
 - It also offers an opportunity for an IPS recipient to experience the warmth of P.E.O. and learn more about our culture and for P.E.O.s to learn about the recipient, her studies and her homeland.

Partners in Peace Program (PIP)

- In addition to the donation, the chapter needs to fill out the **Partners in Peace Form** since not all chapters who donate \$500 or more want to participate in the program. The form also needs to be received by **January 31**.
 - The form is currently a PDF on the International website and needs to be submitted with the donation check to the s/p/d treasurer.
 - We are working on making the form electronic, which also means the form will no longer need to be attached to the donation check and sent to the s/p/d treasurer.
 - More information will be sent once the online form goes live.

Important PIP Updates

- For the 2025-2026 PIP cycle, chapters will be matched with ONE student for any donation of \$500 or more and who have also submitted a Partners in Peace Form.
- That has always been the IPS policy but over time it has become a tradition for chapters to be matched with a student for every \$500 donated. This practice has led to every student being matched with up to 6 chapters, which diminishes the experience of the student and the chapter as part of the program.

PIP Special Requests

- Local chapters may request the same student for a second year when they fill out the Partners in Peace form. The local chapters may also request a student in their geographic area or particular school.
 - The trustees can't guarantee all requests will be accommodated but we do our best.
- If a chapter would like to send a letter of support for a student's application, they may send it to ips@peodsm.org and it will be attached to the application. These are not official "letters of recommendation" required for the application.
- Students sign an agreement to be a PIP student. If the local chapter is not hearing back from the student, please reach out to ips@peodsm.org.

PIP Matches

- Student matches are sent at the end of September once we have confirmed all students had arrived in the U.S. or Canada and were enrolled in their programs.
 - The match information is sent to the local chapter president. Chapters are informed of the other chapters with which their student is matched.
 - BUT we are not able to provide contact information for those other chapters. If the chapter wants to coordinate with the other chapters, they may contact the chapter president through the International website under Directories.

PIP Matches

- Local chapters often choose to remain in contact with their student after the year they were assigned to them.
- Please know that IPS students can be initiated into local chapters especially with the availability of hybrid meetings.

Student Feedback

- ▶ “It is people like you and organizations like PEO which make dreams come true!! Thank you so much, my heart is full of love, and gratitude.” – Student from India, PhD English Literature and Criticism, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- ▶ “I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of your support. This scholarship is an invaluable support and a great encouragement for me. It will help me and my family a lot. I don't know how to express my gratitude to all of you. I will try to finish my program successfully and do my best for Vietnamese patients and students in the future.” – Student from Vietnam, PhD Rehabilitation Sciences, Texas Tech University

Overview of S/P/D Chair Duties

- Promote IPS
- Support Partners in Peace Chapters

Promote IPS

- You are our connection with local chapters for sharing information.
 - **Moments for Peace** - biographies and pictures of our named scholars posted on the International website which can be used by the local chapters to better get to know some of our recipients.
 - **Take a Minute** - brief updates from IPS posted on the International website bimonthly are for chapters to share at a chapter meeting; as the name implies, the update should only “take a minute” to read.

Promote IPS

- You can assist local chapters wanting to promote IPS at local universities:
 - Provide IPS information (such as the IPS publicity flyer) found on the International website to groups who may be in contact with international students such as college financial aid offices, international student organizations or sororities, college recruiting/enrollment offices. Anything you can think of!

P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund



The International Peace Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for international women students to pursue graduate study in the U.S. or Canada. Established in 1949, it continues to promote peace through friendship and understanding among peoples of the world.



IPS recipients carry the spirit of P.E.O. back to their home countries where the degrees they have earned positively impact people's lives around the globe. Members of P.E.O. believe that education is fundamental to world peace and understanding.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

- ★ Must be a woman from a country other than the U.S. or Canada
- ★ Must be working toward a full-time graduate degree at an accredited university or college in the U.S. or Canada
- ★ Must be enrolled and in residence for the entire school year of the scholarship
- ★ Must promise to return to her own country or a country outside the U.S. or Canada, in accordance with visa obligations, to pursue her professional career
- ★ Do not need to be enrolled at time of application
- ★ New applicant must have a full-year of coursework remaining
- ★ Eligibility must be established before application material is sent to applicants

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

- ★ Maximum of \$12,500 annually, depending on need
- ★ May be renewed once

Ready to learn more? To find complete information and to learn more about eligibility, scan the QR code or visit peointernational.org and click on Educational Support, then International Peace Scholarship Fund.

Contact Name and Chapter _____

Email _____ Phone _____



P.E.O. International is a Sisterhood of women who are purposeful and passionate about celebrating, supporting and motivating women. Our mission is to help women around the world advance through education.

Fostering Global Peace Through Education

Promote IPS

- You can assist local chapters wanting to promote IPS at local universities:
 - The IPS article in the Summer 2024 issue of The Record offered a wonderful example of how one chapter connected with IPS students at a local university and the special bonds they developed over the years with the students.

IPS | P.E.O. INTERNATIONAL PEACE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Chapter Develops Special Bonds with IPS Recipients

BY VESELINA HRISTOVA JONES, INTERNATIONAL PEACE SCHOLARSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THE P.E.O. INTERNATIONAL PEACE SCHOLARSHIP (IPS) PARTNERS IN PEACE (PIP) PROGRAM offers chapters a chance to get to know an IPS recipient better. The program encourages chapters to develop bonds with students while also encouraging them in their education. Chapter AG in Springfield, Massachusetts, took the initiative 10 years ago to seek out IPS students at the nearby University of Massachusetts – Amherst. They have developed close relationships with at least 11 IPS recipients in addition to being matched with Partners in Peace students for seven years.

Rachel Tierney (a 62-year P.E.O. member) and Marie Rohan (a nine-year P.E.O. member) are both alumnae of UMass-Amherst and are active on the alumnae board. Ten years ago, Rachel inquired if there were any IPS scholars at her alma mater. The first IPS recipient Rachel connected with was Theresa Manna-Blankson from Ghana, who was studying economics and had two young children. Rachel developed a close relationship with Theresa and is now “Grandma Rachel” to her children.

Over the years, Rachel connected with other IPS recipients. She and her chapter sisters have attended dissertation defenses and have hosted baby showers, birthday and graduation parties. The students, in turn, have presented chapter programs sharing their talents. Recently, Chapter AG hosted a Founders’ Day luncheon with six IPS students in attendance. These events have helped forge lifelong friendships with chapter members and among the students.

Chapter AG has witnessed the reach and lasting impact of IPS as the women with whom they have partnered return to their home countries and continue their engagement in

community improvement projects. Korka Sall, Ph.D., assistant director for the Minnesota Studies in International Development Senegal program, obtained a doctorate in English in 2021 and returned to Senegal after teaching at UMass-Amherst, Mount Holyoke College and Harvard University. She is dedicated to partnering with women in rural areas in Senegal, creating opportunities to connect, train and support women’s initiatives in entrepreneurship, public health and sustainability.

A few former IPS scholars currently hold faculty positions that support educational projects in their home countries. Nellie Lewis Mchenga, Ph.D., from Malawi, is on the faculty of Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts, teaching nursing and health sciences. Nellie and her husband have a foundation in Malawi supporting student education. Jedaidah (Jedy) Chilufa, Ph.D., from Zambia, is a lecturer at UMass-Amherst and conducts research on maximizing legume production with sustainable farming. She and her husband have started a program in Zambia for students interested in science, technology and math (STEM) fields. Jedy was initiated into Chapter AG in 2021 and is now a P.E.O. sister.

These connections with IPS scholars embody the project’s mission of Fostering Global Peace through Education. The sisters of Chapter AG witnessed how supporting IPS recipients from humble beginnings has empowered women to earn graduate degrees, fulfill their dreams and change the trajectory of their lives. The creation of these lifelong relationships has enriched the chapter members’ lives as well. That is truly the Art of Sisterhood! ★



Korka Sall, Ph.D., IPS Recipient



Chapter AG members, State Board Members and 6 IPS Recipients at Founder’s Day in early 2023.

Front Row: Robin Grimes, Carol Leahy, Marie Rohan, Rachel Tierney, Jedaidah Chilufa and daughter Taedra, Susan Guswa, Corinne Chartrand **Back Row:** Jean Dziedzinski, Katy Todd, Kristi Boman, Diana Hatstat, Celine Mudahakana, Pamela Masoka, Ruth Kubi, Vivian Nwadiaru, Nancy Perman, and Barbara Motley

Promote IPS

- ▶ Include an IPS speaker at your s/p/d convention - she can either attend in person or provide a video presentation.
- ▶ **IPS Convention Speaker Support Program** - IPS will reimburse up to one-half of reasonable travel expenses for an IPS recipient to attend and speak at a s/p/d convention.

IPS Speaker Support Program

- ▶ Expenses eligible for reimbursement include travel, hotel and meal costs incurred by the student.
- ▶ After the s/p/d convention, complete and send the IPS Speaker Support Sheet (found on the International website) to the director of finance, Dana Van Roekel. The form must be submitted by the deadline indicated on the form to qualify for reimbursement.

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Promote IPS

- Provide materials/support for the **IPS Project Display** at your s/p/d convention. A lot of information is available on the website.
- Please be aware of the publicity policy concerning using pictures or personal information about specific IPS recipients
 - Since IPS is a “needs based” scholarship, you may only use pictures and quotes/stories of a woman identified by name when she has signed a publicity release for you to do so. The form is on the International website.
 - Without the signed release, you may use quotes/stories by simply providing general information (e.g., information is from a woman from Nigeria studying toward her master’s degree in education)

Support PIP Chapters

- Be familiar with the PIP program – how a chapter qualifies for a match, how do they get connected with a student, tips on nurturing that connection.
- Promote PIP as a means of making personal connections between chapters and students AND for the financial support it provides the project.

Support PIP Chapters

- PIP Chapters are encouraged to:
 - Send their PIP student emails, birthday and holiday cards
 - Invite her to chapter events or to give a chapter program (in person or virtually)
 - If the student is near the chapter, they may offer to take her to lunch or invite her to a family event.
 - Chapter members may share with her about their area as well as what their chapter sisters enjoy doing.
 - Chapters may not provide information about their PIP student to other chapters who did not qualify to be a PIP chapter.
 - Chapters may not provide financial assistance to PIP students except for small amount gift cards. Soliciting funds from the student's other chapters to support the student is not allowed.

Privacy Policies

- The s/p/d chairs along with the advisors (who are usually a state board member) receive the list of all PIPs in their state (and their matches).
- As noted earlier, since IPS is a needs-based scholarship, s/p/d chairs may not share the list or information about the recipients on the s/p/d websites or other general distribution.
- If chapters want to reach out to other chapters who also are assigned to their PIP student, you may help them use the International website to identify those chapters and reach out to the chapter presidents.

Privacy Policies

➤ The official P.E.O. publicity policy is:

“No personal, identifying information for a local chapter’s project recipients can be shared on news media, P.E.O. websites or social media accounts without a completed P.E.O. Photograph and Publicity Consent Form. Out of respect for legal and privacy concerns, s/p/d officers must be aware of this guidance and require documentation before posting private information on s/p/d websites or social media.”

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the image, creating a modern, layered effect. The rest of the background is a solid, very light blue.

Q&A

Thank you!