

VCCJA Graduate Research Scholarship Announcement

Deadline for Applications: May 10, 2010

Introduction

The Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association (VCCJA) Graduate Research Scholarship Program solicits proposals that will contribute scientific knowledge to the field of community corrections. The \$2,500 scholarship provides research support to an outstanding graduate student undertaking independent research on issues related to community corrections (local probation and pretrial services.) Students submitting proposals must be seeking a graduate-level (i.e., Master's or Doctorate) degree in a relevant field at a college or university in Virginia.

Purpose

1. To advance the knowledge and practice of community corrections in Virginia;
2. To support graduate studies in community corrections at universities in Virginia;
3. To educate the public about contributions of community corrections to public safety;
4. To publicize the contributions of VCCJA to the community, to the criminal justice system, and to the profession generally.

Research Topic for 2010

The research must focus on a topic that addresses the policies and practices, and/or effectiveness of **Pretrial Services** in Virginia. Possible topics include: program evaluation; the impact of pretrial supervision on failure to appear rates and safety of the community pending trial; application of risk/need assessments in setting bail; special issues related to minority groups; evidence based practices; fiscal impact on local jails; legislative impact, etc. The chosen topic is by no means limited to these areas. The proposed study should be original, graduate-level work.

Award

To encourage original research in community corrections, VCCJA will provide one (1) annual award of \$2,500 to a graduate student enrolled in an institution of higher learning in Virginia.

Selection Criteria

VCCJA is committed to the competitive process in awarding scholarships. All proposals will be independently reviewed by members of the VCCJA Scholarship Committee. Reviewers will evaluate the proposals and recommend three finalists to the VCCJA Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will make the final award decision.

Criteria to be used in evaluating proposals are as follows:

1. Knowledge of the problem and its importance to community corrections
2. Quality and technical merit: (a) knowledge of the current state of research; (b) soundness of methodology and analytic technique; (c) feasibility of proposed research; (d) awareness of project limitations
3. Significance and relevance of the topic for community corrections
4. Practical and/or educational experience of applicant

Application Submission Requirements

The main requirements for submitting your proposal include:

1. All application questions must be completed
2. The application must be received via email no later than May 10, 2010
3. All eligibility criteria covered in this announcement must be met.

Award Requirements

The individual selected for the research grant shall be required to submit their proposal to the Institutional Review Board at their university to insure they are in compliance with treatment of human subjects. The project should be completed within 12 months of receiving the award and a copy of the final report is required to be submitted to VCCJA. VCCJA will publicize the name and academic affiliation of the award recipient. VCCJA reserves the right to publicize the results of the research to the media, policy makers, and others as appropriate. The student may have the opportunity to present the report at the VCCJA statewide conference (expenses paid by the association). If the research is published, the student must credit VCCJA sponsorship. The VCCJA executive committee reserves the right not to award a scholarship if the applications do not meet the intent or purposes of the scholarship initiative.

The deadline for receiving applications is May 10, 2010

Applications must be submitted to: VCCJA.Scholarship@lynchburgva.gov.

The selected applicant will be notified by June 4, 2010. Information about VCCJA is available on the VCCJA website at www.vccja.org. Contact Bruce Crusier, the scholarship Project Coordinator, for more information at (804) 501-5190 or cru02@co.henrico.va.us.

VCCJA Research Scholarship Application

Name:

College or University:

Address:

Current degree program:

E-Mail:

Phone:

Name and contact information for Faculty Member who will supervise this project:

Please provide the information above along with a narrative response (prefer no more than three pages total, single spaced) to the questions below.

1. Statement of the problem.
2. How will the results of your research be beneficial to Community Corrections (local probation or pretrial services) in Virginia?
3. Explain how you propose to implement this research project and the timeframe. Include anticipated assistance needed from VCCJA to access state or local databases.
4. What is your professional interest in this project, (such as previous or current employment, personal experiences or future career goals?)

Send completed application via email to VCCJA.Scholarship@lynchburgva.gov