

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO, KAREN STERK

Greetings Friends and Supporters -

Hoping that you and yours are safe and well. We are happy to report that seven Scholars graduated in December! Their names are: Nichole C., AZ - Elementary & Special Education; Amanda H., OH - Early Childhood Education; Erin M., CO - Accounting; Toni-Marie G., MA - Early Childhood with Licensure; Linda W., OH - Social Work, Debra S., ID - Psychology; Dawn S., IL - Health Information Management; Lelah B., OR - Psychology & Human Development; Kala K., MA - Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics; Lisa B., MA - Forensic Psychology.

Thank you for your support for JRF Scholars during our End of the Year campaign. We started sending out second-semester checks early in December and thanks to your generosity, we raised \$112,488 to do just that. We are able to send those checks out and provide critical support when Scholars need it the most. As JRF Scholars start the second semester, they are dealing with pandemic fatigue as they continue to persist with their studies.

Tiffany shared a story with us the other day about the challenges of navigating university life as a single mother. As she scheduled her classes, she found one that the professor said she could take online even though it also met in person on campus. However, the university is charging \$500 more for classes that actually meets on campus. So while she is taking the class online, she ends up paying a penalty. \$500 can make a big difference when your median income is \$20,000. Post-secondary education is not set up with the needs of nontraditional students like JRF Scholars in mind - 75% as the head of the household for their families. Another reason the JRF Scholarship is so important for JRF Scholars. Be sure to check out the inspiring story about JRF Scholar Latonya and JRF Board Member Kevin Esch featured in People magazine in January. Kudos to Latonya for pursuing her BA and Kudos to Kevin for his support!

Thank You and Stay Safe!

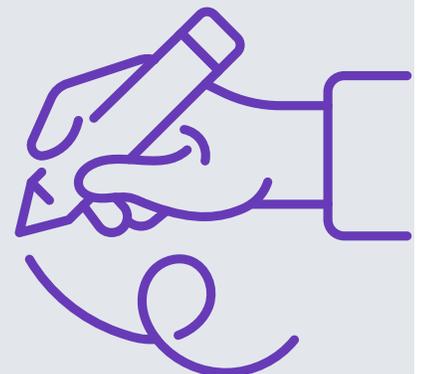


Karen Sterk, CEO

Volunteer with Us

*Now looking for Volunteer Application
Readers for our 2021 Scholarships*

Click here to Register!



JEANNETTE RANKIN SCHOLARSHIP

- Applicant must self identify as a **woman**
- Applicant must be aged **35 or older** by June 1st, 2021
- Applicant must be a **citizen or permanent resident of the United States**

EMERGE SCHOLARSHIP

- Applicant must self identify as a **woman**
- Applicant must be aged **25 or older** by June 1st, 2021
- Applicant must be a **resident of Georgia**

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must be pursuing a technical, vocational, associate's, or bachelor's degree
- Applicants must fall at or below the income eligibility requirements
- Applicants must attend a not-for-profit, regionally accredited institution



Click here to watch our Scholarship Q&A!

Apply online at
rankinfoundation.org.

Applications for both
scholarships **close on**
February 26, 2021!



Coretta & Jeannette

Coretta Scott King was an artist, civil rights leader, teacher, mother, and wife of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Coretta traveled the world promoting democracy and advocating for the rights of marginalized folks (e.g. LGBTQIA+, people of color, women, low-income). Dedicating her life to social justice, Coretta took on many important roles. Coretta notably served as a Women's Strike for Peace delegate, Co-Chair of both the National Committee for Full Employment and the Full Employment Action Council, and co-convenor of the Soviet-American Women's Summit in Washington, DC.

In 1967, Coretta Scott King famously marched with Jeannette Rankin, in the Jeannette Rankin Brigade, to protest the Vietnam War. The brigade demanded Congress withdraw troops from Vietnam, make reparations to the Vietnamese, and "refuse the insatiable demands of the military industrial complex."

Coretta once said, ***It doesn't matter how strong your opinions are. If you don't use your power for positive change, you are, indeed, part of the problem.***

*"By taking the initiative to move forward in my education and career, I am showing my children, but more importantly myself, that you can always have goals. **A person can always dare to grow.**"*

- Scholar Angela





Lorraine Hart

JRF Board Member

Lorraine is our newest member of the JRF Board of Directors. She spent her career in fixed income investment management, retiring in 2006 after a 30 year career. Since then she has generously given of her time to serve on nonprofit organizations boards and committees using her investment and finance expertise.

"Education has been so important to me in my career. The mission of JRF is key in helping women more easily access education in their chosen field. This helps women be able to change their lives going forward."

Rankin Fund in People Magazine

Scholar Latonya & Board Member Kevin

JRF Scholar Latonya and Board Member Kevin Esch were featured in People magazine for their moving story. The two first met in an Uber ride, Latonya as the driver and Kevin as the passenger.

Over the past year Latonya and Kevin's story has traveled through the [Atlanta Journal Constitution \(AJC\)](#), [Ellen Show](#), and now [People Magazine](#). Click on each of the previous titles to read and listen to Latonya and Kevin's inspiring story.

Today we are so proud to share that Latonya is one of our Jeannette Rankin Scholarship recipients and Kevin is on our JRF Board of Directors.



Institute for Women's Policy & Research



Karen Sterk, JRF CEO and LaTrena Artist, JRF Scholarship Program Director will be presenting with JRF Scholars Irene and Tiffany highlighting the research IWPR has done on student parents, on the 18th of February at the national DREAM Conference (for Community College's across the country.) They will be presenting on the topic: *Building an Equitable Future: How Institutions Can Better Serve Returning Student Parents* along with IWPR researchers Lindsey Reichlin Cruse and Susana Contreas-Mendez. Lindsey is putting the finishing touches on a report of the same name that will be released later in February that features two JRF Scholars - Irene and Adrian. We'll be sure to send you a link to the research when it comes out. We are over the moon excited to present nationally with the preeminent IWPR organization.



Scholarship Alumna Khadijah

Khadijah's story is one that will leave you inspired, beginning when she was a domestic abuse survivor, homeless, and weighed 500lbs. She made a decision for herself and for her family - that she wanted education to be her anchor and her path to a better life. As a Jeannette Rankin Scholar, Khadijah graduated from Atlanta Metropolitan College with her Associate's degree, then transferred to Georgia State University to receive her Bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Her educational journey didn't stop there - her love for criminal justice and education inspired her to attend Florida Coastal School of Law, where she specialized in Family Law.

Khadijah is truly a force to be reckoned with. She served as a board member for Legal Aid Atlanta - an organization she once received assistance from. She spent years working in the community, dedicating her life to being a voice for social and economic justice. She serves with many nonprofit organizations that help the youth, the elderly, and houseless individuals. She has been a champion for many minority communities, leading protests against organizations that treat mistreat African Americans. She even owns a business, Jakar LLC, that provides jobs to many community members!

Most recently and most notably, we are proud of Khadijah for being elected as the Fulton County Commissioner for District 6! She was overwhelmingly elected with a 16 point lead by her district. She is also the first Muslim woman to hold an elected office in Georgia.

Khadijah's story highlights just how impactful education can be. The JRF and Emerge Scholarships are crucial because they give women a chance, women just like Khadijah, to create an amazing life for themselves, their families, and their communities. We aim to empower women by making education - and therefore other opportunities - more accessible.

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