Bonner Scholars Program Overview

The Bonner Scholars Program (BSP), sponsored by the Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation, seeks to transform the lives of students at twenty-seven colleges and universities as well as their campuses, local communities, and the nation by providing access to education and opportunities to serve. The program supports these collaborations by offering four-year scholarship awards to students with a sustained record of community engagement.

Bonner Scholars Program at the University of Richmond

A diverse group of approximately 100 students are currently in the BSP at the University of Richmond, making it the largest program in the country. The BSP is designed to deepen Scholars’ education and commitment to social responsibility by asking them to engage in weekly service throughout their time in college. Bonner Scholars are also encouraged to develop knowledge and skills that support this work through a variety of enrichment programs on campus, in the Richmond community, and via the national Bonner Scholars network.

Program Structure

- Scholars are committed to completing 10 hours of community engagement per week which includes Community Service and Training & Enrichment activities in the University and greater Richmond community.

- The Bonner Foundation has identified six common commitments that demonstrate the values and vision for the Bonner community. These themes will be woven throughout the Scholars’ experience. These include: civic engagement, spiritual exploration, community building, international perspective, social justice, and diversity.

- Scholars are participating in a comprehensive developmental process.
  - First year Scholars spend their year in the program exploring different service site opportunities as well as growing in their knowledge of a wide range of social justice issues.
  - Second-year students are encouraged to commit to a service site for the next three years to fully understand the operations and mission of a particular agency.
  - In their third year, Scholars lead by example by stepping into leadership positions at their service site and on campus.
  - As fourth year Scholars, students develop expertise by integrating their academic pursuits and career interests with their service commitment.

For more information, please contact the Bonner Scholars Program office at (804)484-1630 or bonner@richmond.edu.