

Dr. Patricia June Austin Professional Development Scholarship

(Formerly Fr. Gordon Hughes' Memorial Scholarship)

Award History

Effective 2021, this award honors Dr. Patricia June Austin who retired as a former professor of children's literature and curator of the University of New Orleans Children's and Young Adult Library. Dr. Austin served for two decades and mentored countless student library volunteers and librarians-in-training. She has authored more than 40 articles in educational journals, hundreds of book reviews and a picture book, "The Cat Who Loved Mozart." Over the course of her more than 40-year career as an educator, Austin tirelessly helped develop literacy teaching skills to thousands of Louisiana educators. Dr. Austin continues to serve as a major supporter of our GNO/CLA Organization by generously offering timely literary updates at local conferences.

Award Description

This award's purpose is to provide academic financial assistance for those who are pursuing certification as a school librarian, or those who are certified and wish to pursue course work to enhance their knowledge and skills by taking a course in library science.

This award offers a stipend not to exceed \$500 which may be divided by two recipients. Nomination/nominations are selected and awarded by the GNO/CLA Executive Board. The recipient(s) will be notified within a month after the application deadline. The scholarship is typically presented in the Spring.

Award Guidelines

Qualified candidates for this scholarship must be employed by the Catholic school system for at least five years and serve as a school librarian for three years. In addition, she/he must be an active member of GNO/CLA in good standing for at least three contiguous years and enrolled in a library science course at the time of the application. Scholarship funds must be used by the recipient within the interval

of one year's time. If the winner is unable to fulfill his/her education obligations, they have to return the award to the association.

The recipient may apply in the succeeding semester or another year for the scholarship for one additional course. The scholarship will be awarded no more than twice to the same recipient(s). However, the funds awarded will not exceed \$500.00 each year.

Upon receipt of a copy of the university's statement of enrollment and payment for the course in Library Science, the Chapter Treasurer will issue a check to the recipient in an amount designated by the Executive Board for the scholarship award in that year. The Chapter reserves the right not to award the scholarship in years when no applicant meets the qualifications.

There are three categories of applicant eligibility for the Austin Professional Development Scholarship:

Category 1: Undergraduate Education / Library Science Student

The student must provide verification of current enrollment as an education major/library science minor by providing official documentation (i.e. transcripts, report card, letters of recommendation).

Category 2: Certified Teacher

This funding is for certified teachers who have been employed by the Catholic school system for at least five years. The applicant must provide official verification of the bachelors of education degree major or library science minor. Official documents include: transcripts, report card, letters of recommendation. Additionally, please provide the course description that you wish to complete.

Category 3: Certified Librarian

This funding targets the certified librarian who is seeking professional development course work or advanced degree in library science for enhancement of knowledge and skills. Qualified librarian candidates for this scholarship must be employed by the Catholic school system for at least five years and serve as a librarian for three years. In addition, she/he must be an active member of

GNO/CLA in good standing for at least three contiguous years. The candidate must provide verification of education degree major or library science minor by providing official documentation (i.e. transcripts, report card, letter of recommendation). Please also include the professional development opportunity description that you wish to complete.

Apply

To apply for the Dr. Patricia June Austin Professional Development Scholarship, please complete the following form and submit it along with the other necessary documentation. While there is no longer an application deadline, awards are made annually, considered by the board on a first-come, first-served basis beginning August 1st of each year.

Award Recipients

Please visit our website for the complete list of recipients:

<https://gnocla19.weebly.com/awards.html>

**Dr. Patricia Austin Professional Development Scholarship 2022-23
Application Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: (cell) _____ (work) _____

Education and Professional Status:

1. Undergraduate Education/Library Science Student

- Working toward an undergraduate degree? _____
- Hours in education: _____
- Hours in library science: _____
- Are you currently a member of GNO/CLA? _____
- How many years have you been a member? _____
- Please include one letter of recommendation (Professor, Advisor, Colleague, Employer)
- Information pertaining to the college course or professional development course you wish to take.

2. Certified Teacher

- Employed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans for a minimum of five years? _____
- Are you currently a member of GNO/CLA? _____
- How many years have you been a member? _____
- Please attach your current resume to this application.
- Please include one letter of recommendation (Professor, Advisor, Colleague, Employer)
- Information pertaining to the college course or professional development course you wish to take.

3. Certified School Librarian

- A. How many years have you served as a certified librarian? _____
- B. College/University attending: _____
- C. Working towards a Master's Degree in Library Science? _____
- D. Hours to date: _____
- E. Please attach your current resume to this application.
- F. Please include one letter of recommendation (Professor, Advisor, Colleague, Employer)
- G. Information pertaining to the college course or professional development course you wish to take.

Please send your completed application and supporting documents to Ethel Madden, Awards & Scholarship Chair, by email to ethelmadden@gmail.com. While there is no longer an application deadline, awards are made annually, considered by the board on a first-come, first-served basis beginning August 1st of each year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ethel by email or phone (504) 554-5817.