Luis Leal Endowed Scholarship

The Department of Hispanic Studies at Illinois Wesleyan University is able to offer competitive scholarships to qualified students who carry out Hispanic Studies research off-campus in the U.S. or abroad while enrolled in an IWU-affiliated program. Two awards are available annually for approximately $1000 and for $250, respectively. Students awarded scholarships commit to documenting and sharing their research during and/or after the off-campus experience.

Luis Leal was one of the foremost critics of Mexican, Chicano and Latin American Literature. He was born in Mexico to a modest family, but decided to further his education in the United States. He was always grateful for the institutional support he received.

He was always a dedicated generous teacher, who made everybody feel included in his classes regardless of age, gender, abilities or background. Racial equality was extremely important to him and he committed to it in his personal and professional life. Along those lines, he is known for being among the first critics to teach Latin American and Chicano writers, both as part of the Spanish curriculum and as independent fields in their own right. In recognition of his founding role in the field of Latina/o Studies, he received the Distinguished Scholarly Award from the National Association of Chicano Studies.

It has been said that for Leal, “criticism was almost exclusively preoccupied with community.” In recognition for his community involvement and his academic contributions, Leal received the United States National Humanities Medal. Additionally, the Mexican government awarded him the Aztec Eagle, its highest award for foreign citizens. This scholarship is named for Dr. Leal because throughout his life he realized his own individual intellectual potential and fostered that goal in others by living and teaching within a framework of social justice, global citizenship, and respect for diverse communities, values that both the Department of Hispanic Studies and IWU carry in their mission statements.

Eligibility: Applicants must
- Be a Hispanic Studies major or minor
- Be a full-time enrolled student at IWU
- Have applied or will apply to an IWU-approved affiliated program in a Spanish-speaking country or in the U.S.

Scholarship Project: Students awarded a Luis Leal Endowed Scholarship commit to documenting and sharing their research experiences with the wider IWU community. For example, a student might:
- Keep a blog or blog linked to the Hispanic Studies website
- Create digital stories, which can be posted on the ¿Qué pasa? blog of the Hispanic Studies website
- Present in class or at some other university forum about your experience
- Present a research paper in a public venue on a Hispanic Studies topic written in Spanish.

Selection Criteria: The faculty of the Department of Hispanic Studies will evaluate all applications. Recipients will be selected of the basis of their academic record, financial need, and demonstrated value of the program to the students’ course of study.
- Application Form
- Essay

Deadline: April 4, 2018 for fall 2018, spring 2019 or academic year 2018-2019
Submit to the Hispanic Studies Department Operations Coordinator, Buck 115
Luis Leal Endowed Scholarship Application Form
Deadline: April 4, 2018 | Submit to the Hispanic Studies Department Operations Coordinator, Buck 115

Personal Information
Name (first and last): Student ID:
Email (@iwu.edu):
Local Address (Hall, House, or Off-Campus):
Local phone:

Academic Information
Major 1: Minor 1:
Major 2: Minor 2:
Cumulative GPA:

Study Abroad Program
Arcadia IES Abroad IWU Spain SIT
CIEE Central College IFSA-Butler Other:

Proposed study abroad semester and year:
Location (city, country):
Host University (if applicable):

Have you ever studied abroad, at IWU or in high school? Yes No
If yes, please describe your previous experience(s)-- the name of program, if applicable; countries; the length of participation (e.g., 4 weeks), and purpose. Do not exceed the space provided.

Proposed Coursework
Elective Course 1 title:
Circle one: Major Minor Gen Ed Program Req.
Elective Course 2 title:
Circle one: Major Minor Gen Ed Program Req.
Elective Course 3 title:
Circle one: Major Minor Gen Ed Program Req.
Elective Course 4 title:
Circle one: Major Minor Gen Ed Program Req.
Elective Course 5 title:
Circle one: Major Minor Gen Ed Program Req.

Essay
Discuss why you chose this program and how your participation aligns with the goals of the Department of Hispanic Studies. Also include a description of your scholarship project addressing how you propose to document and share your study abroad experience during and/or after participation. (~350 words)

Financial Aid Release
I give the Financial Aid Office permission to release information from my financial aid file to the Luis Leal Endowed Scholarship Committee for the purpose of verification. Yes No

Authorization for Release of Academic, Financial, and Personal Information
I certify that all of the information reported in my application packet for the Luis Leal Endowed Scholarship is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If there are any changes to my study abroad status/program after I submit this application, I understand that I must notify the International Office and any award may be reconsidered. If I am selected as a scholarship recipient, I authorize the release of my personal information for the purpose of publicity and recognition. I also commit to completing my proposed project within one semester of returning to IWU.

_______________________________________ ____________________
Signature Date