Media Fellowship House
Celebrating Differences. Finding Common Ground.

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Claire McGeehan Leadership Award

2026/2027 Academic Year

Combined Nomination & Student Reflection Packet

Thank you for your interest in the **Claire McGeehan Leadership Award** at Media Fellowship House! Created in 2022, this award honors the life and legacy of **Claire Dowdy McGeehan**, a dedicated Media Fellowship House Board Member, community volunteer, and long-time educator.

We recognize that the challenges and adversity we face can shape who we become. Through these experiences, we often develop the key leadership qualities of perseverance, resilience, and compassion. Yet, these qualities are not always recognized for the important role they play in shaping leaders and strengthening communities.

Through this scholarship program, we strive to empower young people by celebrating their diverse life experiences, challenges, and perspectives that build character, develop leadership skills, and inspire a more compassionate and inclusive community.

The Claire McGeehan Leadership Award provides **$2,000 per year for up to four years** of a student's chosen post-secondary program. Beyond financial assistance, Media Fellowship House is committed to building an ongoing relationship with scholarship recipients through a network of mentors, offering guidance, encouragement, and support throughout their educational journey.

THE NOMINATION PROCESS

The Claire McGeehan Leadership Award nomination process includes **two required components: a mentor nomination and a student reflection.**

We encourage mentors and students to work together to complete both parts of this packet by **February 28, 2027.**

Part One: Mentor Nomination

A mentor, educator, counselor, coach, or community leader who knows the student completes the nomination form and shares specific examples of the student's leadership, experiences, and contributions to their community.

Part Two: Student Reflection & Introduction

The nominated student shares their own leadership story through either:

- A written reflection of approximately 1–2 pages; or
- A brief video introduction of approximately 3–5 minutes
- Students are encouraged to reflect on their experiences, leadership, resilience, contributions to their community, and aspirations for the future.

Both components are required for a nomination to be considered complete.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Nominees must:

- Be a current high school senior residing in or attending school in Delaware County, Pennsylvania.
- Plan to enroll in a post-secondary program in the year following high school graduation. This may include a 2- or 4-year college or university, trade school, certificate program, military service, or similar educational or career pathway.

Evidence of financial need is not required. However, Media Fellowship House is committed to promoting opportunities for students from low- to moderate-income households.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- Please submit both completed sections of this nomination packet by **February 28, 2027**.
- **Email:** scholarship@mediafellowshiphouse.org
- **You may also complete the nomination and student reflection online by visiting:** https://mediafellowshiphouse.org/youth-education/claire-mcgeehan-leadership-award/

NOTES ABOUT THE SELECTION PROCESS

- Media Fellowship House will review completed nominations following the February 28, 2027 deadline.
- Up to 3 selected finalists and their mentors will be invited to participate in a Leadership Conversation with members of the Award Team in March 2027.
- Scholarship recipients will be notified by April 15, 2027.
- The scholarship recipient and their mentor will be honored at an Annual Award Ceremony at Media Fellowship House's Annual Meeting in May 2027.
- All submissions will be kept confidential and shared only with those involved in the scholarship selection process.

Questions?

Amy Komarnicki, Executive Director
Media Fellowship House
scholarship@mediafellowshiphouse.org
610-565-0434, ext. 102

Thank you for helping us recognize and celebrate the next generation of community leaders!

PART ONE: MENTOR NOMINATION

Please complete include a **1–2 page nomination letter written specifically for the Claire McGeehan Leadership Award**. The letter should describe how you know the student and provide specific examples of their leadership, perseverance through adversity, commitment to celebrating differences and promoting understanding, and service to the larger community.

Please do not submit a general letter of recommendation prepared for college applications or other scholarship opportunities. We are looking for your personal perspective on how the student demonstrates the qualities recognized by this award. Please complete the following form and include it with your 1-2 page letter of recommendation.

MENTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:			
First Name:		**Last Name:**	
Email:		**Phone:**	
Employer/Organization:			
Relationship to Student*:			

**teacher, counselor, mentor, coach, etc.*

STUDENT INFORMATION: ***To be eligible, the student must be a current high school senior attending school or residing in Delaware County, PA and expected to graduate and move on to a post-secondary program.*			
First Name:		**Last Name:**	
Current High School:		**Current Grade*:**	

1. Overcoming Adversity with Resilience: Share a story or provide an example of how this student has overcome significant challenges in their life with resilience. How has their life experience developed their character and shaped their leadership skills?

2. Promoting Diversity and Understanding: Share a story or provide an example of how this student promotes diversity and understanding in their community. This could be in a school, work, family, or social setting. What leadership qualities stand out and how does this student serve as a role model to others?

3. Service to the Larger Community: Share a story or provide an example of how this student serves their larger community. What leadership qualities stand out in the ways in which this individual gives of their time, interests, and passion to serve others?

4. Last Chance to Brag! This is your opportunity to share more about the student and why you have chosen to nominate this student for the Claire McGeehan Leadership Award.

Mentor Confirmation: I confirm that the information provided in this nomination reflects my knowledge and experience of the student. I understand that this nomination will be reviewed by the Media Fellowship House Claire McGeehan Leadership Award selection committee.

Mentor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

PART TWO: STUDENT REFLECTION & INTRODUCTION

Your Leadership Story

Thank you for your interest in the Claire McGeehan Leadership Award!

This is an opportunity for us to learn more about you, your experiences, and the leadership qualities that make you a strong candidate for this award.

There is no single path to leadership. We are interested in learning about your experiences, what matters to you, and the unique perspective you bring to your community.

Please respond to the following questions in your own words. You do not need to answer each question separately. Instead, use these prompts as a guide to help tell your story.

1. Your Leadership Journey: How do you define leadership? Share an experience, accomplishment, or example of how you have contributed to your school or community.

2. Resilience Through Adversity: Everyone faces challenges and adversity at different points in their lives. Reflect on a challenge, obstacle, or difficult experience you have faced. How did you navigate that experience, what did you learn about yourself, and how has it shaped your growth, perspective, or leadership?

You are welcome to share an experience that is meaningful to you. You do not need to disclose anything you are uncomfortable sharing.

3. Celebrating Differences and Promoting Understanding: Share an example of how you have helped bring people together, promoted understanding across differences, or contributed to making your school or community more welcoming and inclusive.

4. Looking Ahead: What are your hopes and aspirations for the future? How do you hope to make a positive difference in the lives of others or in your community?

Choose Your Submission Format: Please select the format that feels most comfortable to you.

- ☐ **Written Reflection:** I have prepared a written reflection of approximately 1–2 pages responding to the questions above.
- ☐ **Video Introduction:** I have prepared a video introduction of approximately 3–5 minutes sharing leadership story and responding to the questions above. *Videos do not need to be professionally produced. We are interested in hearing from you, not evaluating your video editing skills.*

  Video Link, if applicable: _____

Student Confirmation: I confirm that the information I have provided reflects my own experiences and perspectives. I understand that my submission will be reviewed by the Media Fellowship House Claire McGeehan Leadership Award selection committee.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____