

**The University of Louisville Women's Center**  
*announces*

*the 18th annual* **M. Celeste Nichols Award (2020)**

U of L Graduate students are invited to apply for an award - up to **\$500** – that will support academic and professional enrichment beyond normal graduate program expenses. The award recipients will be announced in November and will be invited to attend an awards events in spring 2021. Examples of activities eligible for funding include:

- Registration fees, lodging, or travel expenses for an academic conference at which the recipient will present a paper or attend as a participant
- Registration fees, lodging, or travel expenses for attendance at a leadership institute
- Expenses related to creating or staging a significant work in the visual or performing arts as part of the student's professional education
- Costs associated with submitting an article or articles for publication
- (Note: Membership dues to any organizations will not be accepted)

**\*\*Application deadline is Monday, October 19, 2020**

(Must be *postmarked* by 10/17/2020 to ensure arrival by 5 p.m., October 19, 2020)

Application forms are available at the U of L Women's Center and on our website <http://www.louisville.edu/womenscenter> and also at the U of L Writing Center in Ekstrom Library. Applications must be submitted to the Women's Center located in Strickler Hall by the end of business at 5:00 pm, October 19, 2020. (Please bring documents in a sealed envelope to 126C Strickler Hall).

**Scholarship Criteria and Guidelines:**

The application form must be typed and accompanied by:

- 1-page description of the activity being funded, including a description of how this will help your professional development.
- Budget, including supporting documents, e.g., a copy of the conference announcement, and a list of other funding sources (***Please note: Travel to conferences, workshops, etc. must be taken weeks after the award announcement in November and not before. No reimbursements of travel or attendance to conferences/workshops taken prior to the award announcement will be given. Travel, attendance and participation must be completed by the recipient before June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year after the award announcement. Students who receive funding and for some unforeseen reason is unable to attend conference, workshop, etc. and/or related expenses for which funding was intended should notify the sponsor immediately.***)
- Current class registration sheet or letter from graduate advisor indicating current enrollment
- Eligible students must be in good standing as a graduate student with the University of Louisville
- Must submit a current official transcript (Unofficial transcripts will be accepted)
- The winner(s) are expected to attend a special awards event in spring 2021 sponsored by the Women's Center.

Winner(s) will be chosen according to how well the applicant's 1-page description meets the intent of the award as explained below. ***U of L Women's Center encourages applicants without regard to gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.***

The Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Professional Development Award is intended to honor the memory of Dr. Margaret Celeste Johnson Nichols and to further the mission of the University of Louisville Women's Center "by offering support and resources to empower women with the goal of promoting an inclusive and equitable campus community and to develop engaged and compassionate leaders." Dr. Nichols was the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from the University of Louisville's Department of English. She graduated in 1992 with a Doctor of Philosophy in Rhetoric and Composition. Her dissertation topic was "The Rhetorical Structure of the Traditional Black Church." Prior to receiving her doctorate, she was an instructor at the University of Louisville for six years, teaching courses in African American literature, honors English, and basic writing. While at U of L, Celeste was a close friend and mentor to many. After graduating, she taught at Kentucky State University and at Bellarmine University before her death at age 45 in 1996.