



FLINT HILLS HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT, INC.

Simply Equal: Nothing More... Nothing Less!

PRAXIS Student Scholarship APPLICATION 2008 - 2009

The Flint Hills Human Rights Project announces that applications are now accepted for the 2008 -2009 Praxis Scholarship. The scholarship seeks to reward college students in our service area - Kansas State University, K-State Salina, Manhattan Area Technical College, Cloud County Community College at Junction City, and Highland Community College at Wamego - who contribute to creating a more just world for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, intersex, and questioning (LGBTIQ) community through their volunteer, artistic, academic/research, or advocacy efforts.

Rationale:

Paulo Freire, in his work with the oppressed in Brazil, emphasized emancipatory education and empowerment. He used the concept of Praxis to explain the revolution from the ground up.

Freire developed his conception of education as a practice of freedom from a critical reflection on various adult education projects he undertook in Brazil in the late 1950s and early 1960s (see Gadotti, 1994, for a review of this emergence). That is, the theory was part of a praxis, "reflection and action upon the world in order to transform it" (Freire, 1970, p. 36).

Praxis is where philosophy induces action, the actual exercising of a philosophical belief; or, to use the vernacular, it is where the rubber meets the road.

Freire always maintained that the cultural and historical praxis that is at the heart of being human is unending. We cannot transcend our existence as "unconcluded, limited, conditioned, historical beings" and this limit actually provides the "opportunity of setting ourselves free" insofar as we join the "political struggle for transformation of the world" (Freire, 1994b, p. 100).

Freire's ideas are at the heart of the vision and mission of FHHRP.

Scholarship Amount and Number Awarded:

A minimum of one scholarship will be awarded annually during the Community Cultural Harmony Week Banquet. The amount of the scholarship will begin at \$250 per semester for two semesters. As the Scholarship Fund is developed, scholarships can increase in value as determined by the Board of Directors, Flint Hills Human Rights Project. For 2008 FHHRP hopes to award two - \$500 scholarships.

Scholarships are paid to the institute of higher education, not to the individual.

Eligibility Criteria:

1) Persons applying for the FHHRP PRAXIS Scholarship **must be enrolled full-time** at Kansas State University (including the KSU-Salina Campus), Manhattan Area Technical College, Cloud County Community College at Junction City, Highland Community College at Wamego, or students graduating from Flint Hills Job Corp who intend to enroll in one of the afore-named institutes of higher education. They can be either undergraduate or graduate students.

2) **Applicants must have a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 system.**

3) Student(s) **must demonstrate active participation in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, intersex, and questioning (LGBTIQ) community served by the Flint Hills Human Rights Project** through service, leadership, scholarship, and/or activism in local LGBTIQ organizations; or, for those students attending an institute of higher education in the Manhattan - Junction City area who are not originally from the area, through previous involvement in other LGBTIQ organizations in the State of Kansas.

4) **Applicants must write a two - three page essay** - single space, one inch margins, and using a 12 point font - Times/Times Roman/ Helvetica - outlining how their past/present commitments to the Manhattan/Junction City/Wamego community surrounding LGBTIQ issues and how those efforts embrace Freire's concept of education and philosophy.

Applicants not familiar with Freire's ideas are advised to review them before writing the essay; **the ability to integrate Freire's concepts in a personal narrative is an important part of the essay judging.**

It is important that the essay demonstrates how the applicants involvement provides the "opportunity of setting ourselves free" insofar as we join the "political struggle for transformation of the world." "Political" does not necessarily refer to "politics," but rather how the applicant engages in creating social change on any variety of levels: the personal, community, social, religious, artistic, legal, political, economical, educational, organizational, etc.

6) Student(s) awarded the scholarship **must maintain satisfactory academic progress by a grade-point average of 2.5.**

7) Along with the FHHRP PRAXIS Scholarship application and essay, each applicant must include **two (2) letters of recommendation** that attest to their service, leadership, scholarship or activism in the LGBTIQ community in Kansas.

8) Financial need may be considered in situations where the students are equally qualified. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to include a copy of their FAFSA from the respective Financial Aid Office of their institute of higher learning to assist this process.



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PRAXIS Student Scholarship 2008 - 2009 Application

Please complete this form by either typing or clearly printing the information requested. PDF versions with interactive fields can be requested by sending an e-mail request to fhhrp@yahoo.com.

- 1.) PLEASE review the **Eligibility Criteria**. Applications not addressing the stated criteria will not be considered.
- 2.) Attach this cover page to your essay and letters of recommendation. Essays and letters of recommendation must be typed. Run spell check and grammar check on your essay before submitting it.
- 3.) **Mail the application to:**
FHHRP, PO Box 906, Manhattan, Kansas 66505.

Applications must be post marked by 1 September 2008, to be eligible for consideration.

PRINT CLEARLY or TYPE

Name _____

Local Address _____

City, Zip _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____