

# Truman Scholar Testimonial

*Amy B. Larsen*



Though it has been years since I applied for the Truman Scholarship, I count the application and interviewing process as one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

I decided to apply for the Truman Scholarship because of my interest in public service. I have to admit that I was intimidated by some aspects of the scholarship application (for example, the questions about what my plans were for involvement in public service five or more years down the line, the policy proposal, etc.). I was sure, however, about my dedication to public service, so I put my fears aside and concentrated on the application. Those parts of the application that were the source of my initial apprehension turned out to be a great opportunity for me to contemplate my goals for the future and to do some research in areas of public service that I felt passionate about. I received much support and feedback from professors and friends as I worked through the application—I certainly did not feel like it was something I had to tackle on my own. The interview process was similarly rewarding. I was well-prepared for the interview because the Truman committee at BYU coordinated mock interviews that gave me confidence. Meeting other potential Truman scholars during my interview opened my eyes to the wide variety of areas that are truly “public interest” in nature. After I was selected as a recipient, the Truman Scholar week provided an incredible opportunity to meet and become friends with other scholars.

I encourage anyone with an interest in public service to apply for the Truman Scholarship. The monetary award, while substantial, is just a part of the true reward for being selected as a Truman Scholar. I hope that any student considering an application will put aside his or her fears and dedicated the time necessary to complete the application. Being a Truman scholar has provided me with countless opportunities and I know there are many other BYU students whose dedication to public service qualify them for these opportunities as well.

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