

## **BACKGROUND ON JUDY BAAR TOPINKA**

Journalist: Judy Baar Topinka dedicated herself to a lifetime of service to the people of the State of Illinois. After graduating from Northwestern University, she began a career in journalism as a part-time reporter for the Berwyn, Cicero, and Stickney-Forest View Life Newspapers, before being hired full-time in 1971. During her award-winning journalism career, she was a reporter, education editor, feature writer, feature editor, and photographer. She received honors from the Illinois Women's Press Association, the Illinois Press Association, and the Illinois State Medical Society for her work covering advances in the medical field.

Legislator: In 1980, Judy was elected to serve in the Illinois House of Representatives. She served two successful terms before being elected to the Illinois Senate in 1984, where she served for ten years until 1995. During her tenure as a legislator, she was a resolute advocate for the health and welfare of the general public, passing a diverse array of legislation ranging from requiring employees at a physical fitness center to be certified in CPR to defining ethical standards for physicians to better protect citizens from medical malpractice. She was an ardent defender of numerous human rights issues including the Equal Rights Amendment, gender and marriage equality, and woman's reproductive rights. She engineered successful efforts in health care delivery and medical ethics and soon became one of Illinois' most respected legislators in the field; her knowledge and ability led her colleagues to name her as chairperson of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee in 1992.

Constitutional Officer: In 1994, Judy achieved the distinction of being the first woman elected to serve as Illinois State Treasurer, becoming only the second woman in Illinois history to hold a state constitutional executive office. During her unprecedented three terms as Illinois State Treasurer, her frugal nature was evident through strong advocacy for financial prudence. She insisted that good fiscal habits and skills be developed at a young age which is why she sponsored the Illinois Bank at School Program to teach school children about the value of saving money. With her prudent spirit of leadership, the State of Illinois earned record amounts of income on investments during her tenure, and she also helped thousands of families save for college by creating one of the most affordable college savings programs in the United States. Her office helped create and retain more than 13,000 new jobs through an innovative linked deposit program and developed the country's largest agriculture loan program for farmers. In 2006, Judy Baar Topinka ran for Governor of Illinois and became only the second woman to win a major party's nomination for Governor in Illinois history. While the election results were not in her favor, Judy never gave up. In 2010, she was elected to serve as the Illinois State Comptroller, making her the first woman to serve in two State Constitutional offices in Illinois. She served as Illinois' chief financial officer with integrity and dedication, continuing her advocacy for fiscal responsibility and greater accountability during a time of severe financial constraints in Illinois until her untimely death in December 2014, shortly after winning the election for her second term as Illinois State Comptroller.

## **SCHOLARSHIP RATIONALE:**

Judy Baar Topinka's legacy is one of good government, ethics, compromise, and love of heritage. Her life demonstrates how anyone with passion, drive, and hard work can succeed in face of great odds. Judy took on the establishment and the status quo and succeeded as no other woman had done in Illinois. She did not always win, but she never gave up in life, whether as a child, mother, student, newspaper reporter, legislator, or state level leader. Her life has solid lessons for future generations; she is a true role model in any environment. We need more people like Judy making things better for us all. The scholarship/honorarium is designed to fund living expenses or other costs while a student is an intern/fellow following a professional path in the spirit of the scholarship/honorarium's namesake.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Nominations must be made by a faculty member of a CAHME-accredited program. Applications will not be accepted directly from students.

The application should consist of an essay of no more than 500 words describing how the nominee wishes to pursue a life in public service trying to make true change in healthcare law, policy, and practice for the good of his or her community, state, country, and the world in the spirit of the scholarship's namesake. The annual awardee will be selected through a selection committee made up of members of The Judy Baar Topinka Charitable Foundation and the CAHME. Should the selectee accept another role other than the one designated on the application, CAHME and the Judy Baar Topinka Charitable Foundation, at their sole discretion, reserve the right to cancel the scholarship/honorarium and award it to a runner up.

## **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:**

Full or part-time students in good standing in CAHME accredited programs in the United States or Canada are eligible to receive the scholarship/honorarium. Students selected must be pursuing a summer internship or a fellowship in public policy, ideally in the healthcare environment. The site of the internship/fellowship could be in Federal, state or local government. The location of the internship/fellowship may also include public policy organizations such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Kaiser Family Foundation, or local organizations that focus on public policy.

An internship/fellowship at a hospital or health system is typically not an acceptable location; however, an internship/fellowship solely in the health policy department of a hospital or health system is acceptable. CAHME and the Judy Baar Topinka Foundation expects that the organization where the internship/fellowship is completed will focus on improving the health and welfare of the public.

The selection committee will review the application and essay using a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, the following characteristics:

- Demonstration of commitment to public service through volunteer activities and/or work experience;
- Academic achievement;
- Personal integrity;

- “Tell it like it is” honesty and straightforward attitude;
- Commitment to speaking truth to power; and
- Bipartisanship.

Applications must include:

- Student name and contact information;
- Name of CAHME-accredited program attending;
- Name and contact information of site of internship/fellowship;
- Nomination essay (no more than 500 words). Students can visit The Judy Baar Topinka Foundation’s website at [www.judybaartopinka.org](http://www.judybaartopinka.org) to learn more about Judy.
- Nominator information.

### **THE JUDY BAAR TOPINKA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION’S HOPE:**

It is the Foundation’s hope that this scholarship will inspire young people to make changes in our healthcare environment for the good of all us as Judy Baar Topinka was always about making things better for everyone. It is an incredible legacy to inspire like-minded, future leaders of change, and it is one that The Judy Baar Topinka Charitable Foundation hopes will help young people in their pursuits of public service to their communities, state, and their country.

### **DEADLINE AND SCHEDULE:**

Applications must be submitted via email in the directions as listed on the Application Form, by 5 pm EDT on March 15, 2019. Nominations will be reviewed by the Selection Committee, and the winner will be announced in April at the discretion of the Selection Committee. The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

### **QUESTIONS**

For questions about the scholarship, email Eric Hamscher at [ehamscher@cahme.org](mailto:ehamscher@cahme.org).