

Fund for Leaders in Mission

NT-NL's Scholarship Fund

The **Fund for Leaders in Mission** is an endowed scholarship fund created by the ELCA to ensure that faithful and promising men and women can accept the call to ministry and provide leadership for the ELCA in the 21st Century. The **NT-NL Fund for Leaders** is a separate account held within the ELCA's Fund and is professionally managed by them. Our fund has given scholarships to four students and will announce its recipient for 2013 at the Mission Assembly this April.



NT-NL Scholarship Recipients (left to right)

Michelle Greenwald & Rebecca Mehl (2011); Jesus Escamilla & Jealaine Marple (2010)



The Challenge: There is a great need in the church and the world for leaders who are thoroughly equipped for mission and ministry. And it is the responsibility of the whole church to identify, train, and support those whom God has called. By 2020, many current ELCA clergy will have retired; we will need an increased number of students attending seminary to replace them.

The Costs of Preparation: To prepare for ordained ministry, students spend three years in seminary and one year on internship after having spent four years in college. The average annual tuition at an ELCA seminary is \$13,000, and the typical student has living expenses of \$15,000 to \$26,000 depending on his or her family situation. That brings the cumulative cost of attending seminary (just the three academic years) to a range of \$80,000 to \$115,000.

Graduates with Debt: Seventy percent of ELCA seminary students take out loans to fund their education. They can expect to face a monthly loan payment of \$300 to \$600 – in addition to other loans from their college days. Understandably, many pastors cannot, then, accept calls to smaller or struggling congregations because the salaries are not adequate for these loan commitments.



The Opportunity: The ELCA created the **Fund for Leaders** to provide financial assistance to seminarians and encourage excellence in ministry. The Fund's mission is to ensure support for the projected 1,400 ELCA students annually enrolled in the ELCA seminaries. Please help in this vital work of the ELCA and NT-NL. To learn more and to donate online, go to www.ELCA.org/FundforLeaders.