John B. Ervin Scholars Program,
All Undergraduate Schools

John B. Ervin was a nationally renowned black educator, scholar, and author who committed his life to the education of all people. In 1968, Dr. Ervin became dean of the School of Continuing Education at Washington University, the first African-American dean at the university. He was also very involved with the St. Louis community, holding leadership positions on boards of numerous organizations and foundations. The story of Dr. Ervin, born in Birmingham, Alabama, and raised in Kent, Ohio, is one of achievement and determination in the face of discrimination. A beloved member of the WashU community, Dr. Ervin is best remembered for his commitment to excellence, his engagement with the community, and his efforts to bring diverse people together to heal divisions among them.

In honor of Dr. Ervin, Washington University established the Ervin Scholars Program to help create a more diverse community on campus and recognize the intellectual, leadership, and service achievements of its students. If selected as an Ervin Scholar, you will be expected to participate in each component of the program, including orientation to WashU, meetings with university and community leaders, academic support and advising, and events with other Ervin Scholars and the program’s administrators. Ervin Scholars are also expected to engage in organizations and activities on campus and in service projects in the community.

We encourage you to apply for the John B. Ervin Scholars Program regardless of the undergraduate division you select on your application. The university is seeking students who demonstrate exceptional intellectual and leadership achievements, who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and who have shown a commitment to community service. The program supports students with a commitment to bringing diverse people together.

TO APPLY:

- Submit an application for admission to the Class of 2022.
- Through the WashU Pathway, submit an Application for Academic Scholarships and Fellowships, checking the box for the Ervin Scholars Program.
- Write a brief response (150 words or less) to one of the following questions:
  1. Describe your most difficult challenge and how you approached it.
  2. In which of your high school or community activities do you take the greatest pride? Why?
- Write an essay of approximately 500 words on the following topic:
  Review the biography of Dr. John B. Ervin on this page, and reflect upon your academic and community experiences. Please describe your experience with diversity and your commitment to bringing diverse groups together. Then describe your commitment to leadership in your school and how you would continue that commitment at Washington University if you are selected as an Ervin Scholar. Include specific examples of your dedication to the ideals embraced by the Ervin Scholars Program.
- Required: Submit an additional letter of recommendation from a member of your community who knows you well. You may request the recommendation electronically using the link in the WashU Pathway. If you submit an “other” letter of recommendation through the Common or Coalition Application, that letter will be used for your Ervin Scholarship.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information or answers to specific questions, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, (800) 638-0700 or (314) 935-6000.

Deadline APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 P.M. CENTRAL TIME ON JANUARY 5, 2018.