



The PRISM Scholarship

Our commitment to help women entrepreneurs with the multi-faceted challenges of building a successful business.



Who We Are

WSWE is a membership organization committed to empowering women entrepreneurs through support, guidance resources and networking. Our membership is comprised of women-owned small businesses based in the western suburbs of Chicago. WSWE members are committed to building strong businesses – and we recognize that this is not easy. To celebrate paying it forward -- one of our key values as an organization, WSWE is initiating our new scholarship program.

The PRISM Scholarship

Our PRISM Scholarship demonstrates our commitment to help women entrepreneurs with early-stage businesses to build a successful enterprise. Benefits of our PRISM Scholarship include:

- Receiving one-on-one quarterly guidance from our Scholarship Advisory Team about key areas of business operations:
 - Financial
 - Legal
 - Technology
 - Sales/Marketing
- Enjoying one year of WSWE membership that includes monthly programs addressing topics vital to business growth – and more.
- Connecting with fellow business owners to build professional and personal relationships.

Who Are Qualified Candidates

The profile of the woman business owner we want to meet and discuss our scholarship selection process with is one who is actively seeking help and resources to build her operation. We believe we will make the most significant difference for a woman business owner in the early stage of her business. A qualified candidate is one who has an established business that has been operating for about 12 months. Her business will likely be facing the very real challenges we are well- prepared to address.

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The PRISM Scholarship Selection Process

After submitting a written application that will give the WSWE Selection Committee a first review of the applicant's business, we will talk with a qualifying candidate to learn more about her, her enterprise, and her goals. Making the right match is an essential element of the process. We anticipate that lively discussion, and reviews of current plans and progress will lead to the best selections.

Candidates interested in applying for the PRISM Scholarship may apply by going to our website at www.wswe.org and download the PRISM Application. To be considered for a PRISM Scholarship, fully completed applications must be received by WSWE by May 1st. Scholarship winners will be announced at the June Annual WSWE Members Dinner and Meeting, and the scholarship will become effective on July 1st.

How You Can Help

Finding the best scholarship applicants is an activity that requires us to "cast a wide net". We know that the value of our scholarship will make a substantial difference in the lives of our winners – and we don't want to overlook any good candidates.

So letting early-stage women business owners know about WSWE and this unique opportunity is an important priority.

Using our public relations and website presence, we will celebrate and recognize our PRISM Scholarship winners – as well as the professionals who help us to connect with our award winners. We are a networking savvy membership group, and we stress the value of warm business connections and doing business together so that everyone's business gains more visibility and continuously grows and thrives.

Contact Us

To learn more about WSWE or to contact a board member, please visit:

www.wswe.org