

## **The Renee Royak-Schaler Memorial Endowment in Health Equity Award**

The Renee Royak-Schaler Memorial Fund was established to honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Royak-Schaler in the department. The endowment provides merit-based monetary awards to students in the MPH, MS, or PhD programs in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. This prestigious award recognizes excellence in the student's academic work and in research and/or service in areas deeply important to Dr. Royak-Schaler: health equity, health behavior, women's health, cancer prevention, and/or community engagement and participation. Work in these areas can include a project related to the student's program or research, volunteer work, a presentation or publication.

### **Applicant and Award Criteria**

1. Applicants must be enrolled in the MPH, MS, or PhD programs in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health during the spring or fall terms and be in good academic standing.
2. Award decisions are based on the quality of the student's application, GPA, CV, statement of career goals, and one letter of recommendation.
3. The award amount will be based on funding availability and the number of applicants in a given year.

Note: Funds will be awarded directly to the recipient via check. Individual awards will not exceed \$500.

### **Application Materials**

Applicants should submit the following materials electronically through the [Award Submission Form](#) by **March 13, 2026 at 5:00 pm.**

1. Curriculum vitae (CV) with UMB GPA.
2. A 1-2 page application describing current and/or completed work in health equity, health behavior, women's health, cancer prevention, and/or community engagement and participation. The application should also include the student's background, interests, any previous public health experience other than in the areas listed above, and professional goals.
3. A letter of recommendation from a person familiar with the student's work (and not serving on the Award Selection Committee). Letters must be on letterhead and signed.