

# MEINIG FAMILY CORNELL NATIONAL SCHOLARS

300 Kennedy Hall  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York 14853

## *A Prospectus*

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[www.commitment.cornell.edu](http://www.commitment.cornell.edu)



*“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”*  
*-President John F. Kennedy*

### *Our Program*

As an elite institution where, as Ezra Cornell said, “Any person can find instruction in any study,” our university welcomes students and faculty from around the world. It is, in effect, a crossroads of cultures and experiences unique even among its peers. As such, it is also fertile ground for the cultivation of great leaders. The annals of our history are punctuated with the familiar names of heads of state and CEOs of organizations large and small, all of whom learned the lessons of leadership here at Cornell.

In 1944, the Cornell University trustees sought a way to encourage the growth of responsible, intelligent, and caring leaders. They knew that if given the opportunity, bright, motivated individuals could use Cornell’s resources to become leaders across the nation and around the world. Out of this effort, the trustees created the Cornell National Scholars program. Affirming its success and its integral place within the university identity, Peter Meinig ’61 and Nancy Schlegel Meinig ’62 endowed the Cornell National Scholars program in 1999.

The Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars (MFCNS) program awards 50 scholarships to entering freshmen who have demonstrated significant leadership contributions and academic excellence throughout their high school careers. They come from across the United States and represent all seven undergraduate colleges. Through MFCNS, students can make meaningful contributions to campus life that enhance their own educational experience and often benefit a larger community. Meinig Scholars often assume positions of great responsibility and are true ambassadors of the excellence associated with our institution.

### *Rewarding Achievements, Furthering Development*

Meinig Scholars are members of a select group, representing less than two percent of the University’s undergraduate population. Accordingly, the program’s staff prides itself on the personalized attention it affords each student. Scholars come to know that their time at Cornell is a journey, and that the MFCNS staff is here to help at each step along the way.

### *Program Benefits*

#### **Leadership Support Account**

Meinig Scholars have access to up to \$3,500 over their undergraduate Cornell career to cover the costs of their participation in summer internships and other experiential opportunities such as alternative breaks trips and Pre-Orientation Service Trips (POST) designed to expose students to leadership activities.

#### **Loan Replacement**

Meinig Scholars receive up to \$4,000 per year to replace need-based student loans, depending on financial aid eligibility. This loan replacement comes with the honor of the Meinig Family Cornell National Scholarship and access to our donors, Peter and Nancy Meinig, through program-sponsored events.

#### **Summer Expected Savings Replacement (ESR)**

Meinig Scholars may be eligible to receive monies to replace Cornell’s savings expectation from summer earnings if they have worked in a program-sponsored service and/or career-related summer internship, but were unable to meet the summer savings expectation. Limited ESRs are available on a first-come, first-serve basis; some restrictions may apply.

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## *Program Benefits continued*

### **Executive Mentoring Program**

Meinig Scholars develop long-term mentoring relationships with university administrators that often extend well past graduation. Past mentors have included university presidents, vice presidents, provosts, deans, and directors. They enjoy getting to know their Meinig Scholars personally, sharing a lifetime of leadership experience. Mentors regularly organize informal outings with their students including anything from dinner to rock climbing to volunteering together in the community.

### **Freshman Forum**

All freshman Meinig Scholars are expected to participate in this year-long experience. During the first semester, students are engaged in teambuilding and educational initiatives intended to foster identity as a community of leaders. During the second semester, students examine and address an issue of relevance to the Cornell community in the form of a group project. In working with Cornell administrators to achieve this end, Meinig Scholars simultaneously hone their leadership and communication skills while affecting positive change.

### **The Cornell Commitment Showcase**

In conjunction with the Freshman Forum, MFCNS upper-class students volunteer to present information regarding their summer experiences and contributions to fellow Scholars. This provides opportunities to learn about how students can impact their world with support account funding.

### **Graduation Reception**

All seniors who graduate in good standing from MFCNS are honored at a reception on the Friday before graduation in May. Families, executive mentors, and the Meinig family are invited to join in the celebration where students are introduced and honored.

### **Executive Board**

Meinig Scholars can apply annually to be members of the Executive Board. The Board works with the program director to sponsor leadership, social, and educational opportunities for MFCNS students. Executive Board members also advise the MFCNS staff on areas of interest to Scholars and serve as ambassadors of the program.

### **Connect with a Community of Leaders**

Relationships Meinig Scholars develop with one another and with the Scholars who came before them add richness to the MFCNS experience. Social networking, visits from alumni, and special events promote connections between students and alumni who have lived the Cornell experience and have applied it to the world beyond. All Scholars, past and present, are encouraged to join the MFCNS Facebook and LinkedIn group to facilitate connections regardless of location.

### **Web Resources**

The Meinig Scholars program maintains an up-to-date, interactive website at [www.commitment.cornell.edu](http://www.commitment.cornell.edu) that spotlights student leadership and provides program information; coordinates a moderated listserv, MFCNS-L, to keep students up-to-date on news and events; and maintains a Facebook page for information and interaction.

## *Remaining a Meinig Scholar*

Program expectations ensure that members take full advantage of the opportunities MFCNS provides for growth and connection. They codify the principles on which Meinig Scholars were originally selected - academic achievement and commitment to leadership in service to community. Meinig Scholars must demonstrate their active participation in leadership activities on an annual basis via our re-application process, verifying that they have met the following program requirements:

- maintain an overall cumulative grade point average of at least 2.7.
- actively participate in MFCNS and/or in other organizations/activities on campus or in the local community, making a significant contribution in terms of time (minimum 150 hours) as well as impact.
- complete the annual re-application process which verifies and details students' leadership activities and includes a reflective essay on what has been learned through that leadership. Seniors are expected to provide this information via the Excellence in Leadership Award competitive essay and application.
- fully participate in Freshman Forum (Freshman students only).

Students who meet these program requirements on an annual basis are eligible to continue receiving the program benefits throughout their Cornell career. Individuals having difficulty meeting MFCNS requirements should communicate with the program's director. As valued members of a select, dynamic program, Meinig Scholars are in general encouraged to seek out the kind of personalized support MFCNS can offer as they endeavor to make the most of their Cornell experience.