

**THE JOHN LEWIS  
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
SELECTION CRITERIA AND APPLICATION**

The John Lewis Institute for Social Justice (JLISJ) seeks to empower a new generation of leaders to follow his call to build a better and more just world, one that is marked by hope and focused on liberation. In doing so, we find hope and strength in his efforts, voiced in the language of justice and lived in a life of service. Our collective work is designed to create intellectual and civic spaces to allow for a deeper understanding of the roots of injustice, while also fostering and nurturing efforts to eliminate it. We aim to do this by helping participants develop as social justice leaders and advocates and helping them explore opportunities in public service. We encompass the issues of all people and seek to work for the oneness of humanity. We take as our mandate Rep. Lewis' observation and challenge that, "ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America."

**GOALS:**

- Develop leadership and advocacy skills
- Explore public service careers
- Engage with the campus and the communities around CCSU

**SELECTION CRITERIA:**

- Must be a matriculated CCSU full or part-time student
- Can apply from any major
- May be either first-year, second-year, or third year at time of application
- May have a no less than a cumulative 2.5 GPA
- Should have engaged in either some form of activism or social change or volunteer work
- Must be interested in: public service; civil rights; ending all forms of racism; food insecurity; social justice; mass incarceration; underrepresented populations and other activist activities that uplift humanity
- All races, ethnicities, nationalities and genders are welcome to apply. Students will be welcomed regardless of citizenship.
- Students should be able to devote time to seminars, activities and receive all program benefits. In particular, successful applicants must be available for a 3-day retreat in August.

To apply, email the following to Erin Rodas, Office of Equity and Inclusion, at [erodas@ccsu.edu](mailto:erodas@ccsu.edu) with the subject line, John Lewis Institute Scholar Application. Applications should be received no later than Wednesday, May 11.

1. Completed application below.
2. A two-page statement that discusses the following: your interest in social justice and its meaning for you and your community; and/or your activism and what changes you would like to make in your community.
3. Two reference letters: one from a faculty/staff and one from a community member who has knowledge of your activism.

**THE JOHN LEWIS  
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_

Minor (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Years Matriculated @ CCSU \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

References: Two references might include faculty or staff or high school teacher.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

The following issues **must be addressed** fully in your personal essay. This essay is meant to be a reflective assessment that will tell the committee who you are. It is not a summary of your resume, awards and academics.

1. Personal narratives are important in writing a personal statement. Tell us a story that explains your motivation for participating in the John Lewis Institute for Social Justice. What do you know about Representative John Lewis? How did you learn about his life and work? How does your motivation to become a John Lewis Scholar align with Rep. John Lewis's philosophy of social justice and activism? What is your passion for social justice? What is your personal connection to this issue?
2. Please describe how either your community or campus activism represents inclusivity and social justice, across ethnicities, genders, "race" and other identities. What have you learned from working with a diverse group of individuals? How did you grow?
3. What are your academic interests? How will the John Lewis Institute for Social Justice enhance your academic success?
4. What is one thing you think is needed to make CCSU more an inclusive community empowered by social justice?

Please provide your references with the sheet below so that it can be returned to you.

**THE JOHN LEWIS  
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REFERENCE LETTER**

Thank you for providing this student with a reference to become a John Lewis Scholar of the John Lewis Institute for Social Justice at Central Connecticut State University. The scholar will learn how to advocate for social justice embedded in the philosophy of nonviolence as practiced by Representative John Lewis.

Recommendation letters should address the following:

- How long have you known the applicant? In which capacity did you know the applicant?
- Please indicate how committed this applicant is to social justice and community change.
- How committed is this applicant to educating the public about social justice?
- What distinguishes this applicant from their cohort?
- What is your assessment of the applicant's ability to persist despite challenges?

Your Name:

Name of Applicant:

Please describe the applicant.