

SHE-CAN Scholarship Proposal

SHE-CAN Overview

SHE-CAN transforms young women from disadvantaged backgrounds into confident leaders and change-agents in their home countries. We identify low-income, high-potential students in post-conflict countries; we pair the aspiring students with teams of mentors who work to help them win full-ride scholarships to top U.S. colleges and universities. Once students graduate, they return home with an inspired education, new skills and confidence, and a strong network of mentors and colleagues that foster future successes. Since 2011, our collaboration has begun to build a new generation of female leaders in Rwanda, Cambodia, and Liberia.

As of 2018, with the support of over 250 U.S. mentors, SHE-CAN has a total of 54 scholars who have graduated, will be attending, or are attending prestigious schools like Scripps, Tufts, Bucknell, Beloit, Muhlenberg, Oberlin, University of San Francisco, U.C. Berkeley, Wellesley, Northwestern University, and many more. Connected by our powerful mentor networks and bolstered with a top-notch education, our scholars are attaining coveted internships and leadership opportunities within influential organizations, including Women for Women, Partners in Health, and U.S. congressional offices.

In 2019, we plan to place 15 additional SHE-CAN scholars from Liberia and Cambodia to gain admittance for the fall.

SHE-CAN's Expertise: Scholar Selection, Financial Support, and Mentoring

SHE-CAN manages the outreach, recruitment, screening, and selection of high-potential, low-income female undergraduate scholars in post-conflict countries. Since 2011, SHE-CAN has developed a democratic application process that allows us to identify the brightest students who have potential to thrive on U.S. campuses, but who lack finances and knowledge of the scholarship application process.

SHE-CAN funds the expenses that prohibit these scholars from considering applying: we provide ACT and IELTS preparation, and cover non-scholarship costs which include entrance tests, flights, computers, clothes and dorm supplies.

We engage highly professional U.S. mentors who, in teams of five or six, are matched to a scholar to guide her through the application process for available scholarships. Once our young women win scholarships, mentor teams act as support systems and role models. Our mentor network specializes in providing crucial personal emotional support, leadership training, and experiential learning opportunities so that our scholars make successful social and academic transitions to life in the United States. Over the college years, SHE-CAN mentors and scholars build lifelong bonds that continue throughout scholars' transitions from graduation into leadership careers and beyond.

SHE-CAN Scholarship Opportunity

In 2019, SHE-CAN is scaling up our program to an even more impactful level by putting into place a plan to increase the number of young women we serve. In 2015, we created the **SHE-CAN** Scholarship opportunity—**Supporting Her Education Changes A Nation**—that asks top U.S. schools to commit to awarding a 4-year scholarship to one or more SHE-CAN scholars. SHE-CAN is a need-based scholarship and mentorship program that we offer to the brightest young women from multiple post-conflict countries. Through the SHE-CAN scholarship opportunity, SHE-CAN partner universities and colleges will realize the following benefits:

Increase Scholarship's Impact

By joining us as a SHE-CAN partner school, a university contributes to a collective effort to change the leadership trajectory of post-conflict countries rather than diluting efforts across many nations. Together the core schools educate enough leaders to form cohorts of concentrated leadership with the combined power to become influential catalysts for equality, peace, and economic prosperity. Over time, the collective power of these graduates becomes exponential and will influence millions. By 2023, 50 participating universities will be sending 50 SHE-CAN scholars home each year, 10 per country.

Empower Women's Leadership Globally

Supporting SHE-CAN scholars enables schools to foster equality for all by providing women with pathways to leadership in the places that need it most. With the combined support of schools and mentors, scholars are able to step out of their traditional cultures to a more progressive society in order to gain a wider perspective and a highly sought-after degree. Through their relationships with their mentors, scholars find their personal power and voice as potential leaders ready to challenge engrained gender barriers.

Bridge the Income Divide

SHE-CAN allows colleges and universities to push scholarship funds down the socio-economic pyramid. By working with international and local organizations in our target countries, we find high-potential leaders with meager financial backgrounds whose families have suffered the atrocities of conflict in their countries. Our program includes many orphans, refugees, and daughters of market sellers; these young women are often outside the radar of colleges and universities because the students lack resources and knowledge to navigate the application process on their own. Our experience shows that scholars who have persevered through unimaginable tragedies in their lives are often the people most motivated to return home to usher in change for those who suffer similar plights.

Encourage and Retain Diversity

Our commitment is to provide participating schools with one qualified scholar per year. Once SHE-CAN is fully scaled to five countries, we will be able to provide each participating school with a scholar from a different country each year. Long-term partners will only need to accept scholars from duplicate countries once every five years.

Core Partnerships

In-Country Agency Roles

SHE-CAN has a track record of partnering with the most impactful women's education agencies in Rwanda, including The Rwanda Girls Initiative/Gashora Academy, FAWE Rwanda, First Lady Jeannette Kagame's Imbutu Foundation, Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village (ASYV), and EducationUSA Rwanda. In 2014, we established relationships and cooperative agreements with the following organizations in Cambodia: Women For Prosperity, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry for Women's Affairs, EducationUSA Cambodia, Cambodian Future Fund, the Harpswell Foundation, Jay Pritzker Academy, Education First Cambodia and a Parliamentarian. And, in 2018, we gained partnerships and cooperative agreements in our newest country, Liberia as follows: These Liberian partnerships include the Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) for Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security; Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa; H.O.P.E., Inc.; Kolu Sokodolo Children's Foundation; Liberians Encouraging Students in Science And Technology; SMART Liberia; and YONER – Liberia. We are poised to develop connections in two more post-conflict nations.

International Development Roles

Key international development partners include, Vital Voices, World Pulse, Global Fund for Women, and Roots of Peace.

University Roles

We have a growing network of partner universities who currently support one or more of our scholars. Schools that have accepted scholars include: Arizona State University, Beloit College (6 scholars), Bennington College (2 scholars), Bucknell University (7 scholars), Gettysburg College (4 scholars), Harvard University, Haverford College, Lehigh University (2 scholars), Lafayette College (6 scholars), Lewis & Clark College, Michigan State University (3 scholars), Muhlenberg College (6 scholars), Northwestern University, Oberlin College, Scripps College, Smith College, Spelman College, Tufts University, U.C. Berkeley, University of Portland (2 scholars), University of Minnesota (2), University of San Francisco, Wellesley College, Whitman College.

Those who have officially joined the SHE-CAN Coalition as of December 2018 include: Beloit College, Bucknell University, Gettysburg College, Lafayette College, Lewis & Clark, Muhlenberg College, Northwestern University, Oberlin College, Spelman College, University of Minnesota, University of Portland, and University of San Francisco. Several of these schools have signed long-term contracts with SHE-CAN.

BECOME A SHE-CAN PARTNER!

Join us and leverage your scholarship investment for greater impact.

If you think your school is a good candidate to sponsor a SHE-CAN scholar, please contact **Dine DeMarlie** (ddemarlie@shecan.global) or **Barbara Bylenga** (bbylenga@shecan.global)