Fall 2026
Menard Family Center for Economic Inquiry
Gail Werner-Robertson Research Fellowship
Application

The Menard Family Center for Economic Inquiry (MCEI) seeks to generate robust discussions on campus about markets and how economic freedom affects human flourishing. The Center supports programs that analyze economic and social outcomes from a variety of academic perspectives, including economics, ethics, and entrepreneurship. The Gail Werner-Robertson (GWR) Research Fellows Program is the flagship program for students.

The GWR Research Fellows program is designed to support a full semester of part-time undergraduate work on an original research project under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Students in the program conduct research on a mutually agreed upon topic within an area of specialization of the faculty mentor. The specific focus of the program is on research questions relating to economics, ethics, and entrepreneurship. Projects from other disciplines will be considered as long as they relate to the MCEI mission. Preference is given to the strongest candidates who have shown sustained involvement in MCEI programs.

GWR Fellows will be expected to attend weekly cohort meetings on **Fridays from 11am – 12pm from September 4, 2026 through December 4, 2026 as well as a bootcamp meeting on August 28, 2026 from 11am-1pm**, with breaks for school recesses. Regular participation at the weekly cohort meetings is expected for all fellows. In addition, each GWR Fellow will be required to present their research and progress to the cohort, present in an on-campus forum during the Fall 2026 semester, produce a research poster, and GWR apprentice proposal. Finally, the progress of each cohort member will be reviewed at the beginning of October and at the beginning of November to ensure continued research progress, deliverables clarification, and sustained interest.

Gail Werner-Robertson Research Fellows Stipend		
Student Stipend: $525 (3 payments of $175)		*Faculty Honorarium: $500*
Gail Werner-Robertson Research Stipend ● Sponsored by the Center for Economic Inquiry in the Heider College of Business. ● **Eligibility:** All Creighton University students; research in any field of study is acceptable, priority is given to projects related to economics, ethics, and entrepreneurship. ● **Payment Schedule:** Payments will be administered evenly upon renewal following check-in meetings the last week of September, the first week of November and at the end of the semester.		

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Cover Sheet

Student Name: [First Middle Initial Last]
Net ID: [ABC12345]
Student Mailing Address: [Current, local, or Creighton address]
Student Permanent Mailing Address: [Home or Parents Address]
Student Email:
Student Phone:
Graduation Date: [Spring/Fall 202X]
Major(s): [Declared or Undecided]
Minor(s): [Declared or Undecided; NA if not applicable]
GPA:
Are you a U.S. Citizen: Yes No
MCEI Involvement: [Are you a Business Research Fellow, or have been involved in: Philosophy, Politics & Economics | Research Silos | Student Colloquia | Marketing Team | Speaker Events]
Faculty Research Advisor: [e.g., Bill Bluejay, Ph.D.]
Title of Proposed Research Project: [Name of your research]
Please provide the names of the 2 faculty members who will be contributing your letters of recommendation (one must be your Faculty Research Advisor):

1.
2.

Please provide the names of 1 or 2 potential reviewers, faculty who may have some background with your research topic but who are not your advisor or mentor.

1.
2.
3.

Does your project involve human subjects? Yes No

If yes, has the project been approved by the Institutional Review Board? Yes No

Complete form with student and faculty signatures are to be emailed to **mcei@creighton.edu**.
Submission for all GWR awards is due by **May 15th, 2026**

Student Signature Date

Faculty Signature Date

Novice Application Overview and Instructions

Required Application Elements

a) Completed Cover Sheet

b) Title of Proposed Research Project: [Name your research]

c) Description of research:
[200–500 words. More detail about your research question or what expertise you are bringing to the table, what advantages you have in completing the task – course work, prior work, interest in applying this to your career, etc.]

d) Faculty Advisor:
[Person who will advise your research and provide feedback throughout the semester]

e) Research Question

Primary Research Question:
[What is the question you are trying to answer with your research? Attempt to state what is so important about a topic that you will spend 2 semesters thinking about it]
Secondary Research Question:
[Backup research question if the first research questions cannot be answered at this time]

f) Article Reviews
[Describes the project to be undertaken in the context of the existing literature on the topic (should include references to and brief contextualized reviews of at least 3 papers)]

- Maximum length: 3 pages, double-spaced, 12pt type

g) 2 Letters of Support
Need to be from faculty members at Creighton University, one of which must be from the faculty sponsor/research advisor

- These brief letters should be sent electronically by the recommenders to (**mcei@creighton.edu**) **when complete.** Students **may not** submit letters on their own behalf.

Deadline: May 15th, 2026
All application materials from the student (items a-g above) must be submitted to **mcei@creighton.edu** **when completed**. Applicants will receive an e-mail confirmation when their application materials have been received.

General Guidelines

Individuals Eligible for Support. Any student currently enrolled who will be returning to full-time undergraduate study at Creighton for the Fall semester 2026 may submit an application for a Gail Werner-Robertson Research Fellowship. The MCEI does not accept joint student proposals for projects to be carried out by more than one student. In signing and submitting the cover sheet, the applicant is affirming his or her eligibility to receive a fellowship. See award-specific eligibility requirements on the previous page.

Faculty Sponsor/Research Mentor. Each student who applies for a scholarship must find a Creighton University faculty sponsor/mentor willing to supervise her or his project.

a. Applications must be written by the students themselves. Faculty members are welcome to advise students but should not co-author applications.
b. Each project should be supervised from start to finish by a faculty member. For this reason, applications must carry the signature of a faculty sponsor. Faculty members are asked to pay particular attention to issues surrounding **research compliance** (human subjects review, etc.).
c. Project topics should be within the areas of specialization of faculty mentors. The GWR cohort leader can provide basic information about faculty areas of specialization. Students should discuss subject areas with their faculty sponsor.

Application Review Process: Applications will be reviewed by two reviewers: the GWR faculty moderator and one external reviewer with subject area knowledge. The reviewers may include faculty suggested by the applicants. Reviewer recommendations with be considered by a committee consisting of the GWR faculty moderator, the MCEI director and one additional faculty member. Reviewers will be directed to consider the following criteria in their deliberations:

a. the clarity, coherence, elegance, interest, and potential impact of the proposed project
b. the qualifications of the applicant, including academic record and prior experience in independent research the strength of support evidenced in faculty letters
c. the practicability and feasibility of the project within the one-semester fellowship period

Check-ins and Renewal: Renewal in the program is contingent on regular attendance at cohort meetings, quality deliverables, weekly feedback, active participation, regular meetings with the faculty advisor (at least every other week), and satisfactory evaluations at the two check-in meetings. The evaluation rubric will be provided at the GWR kickoff meeting. Missing multiple cohort meetings or meetings with the faculty advisor or an unsatisfactory evaluation at check-in meetings is grounds for probation and eventual non-renewal. Fellows will be notified at check-in meetings if they have been placed on probation. Fellows are given until the next check-in meeting to resolve the concerns raised. If concerns raised are not resolved, students will not be renewed. Check-in meetings will take place the last week of September and the first week of November. Appeals of non-renewal must be submitted in writing within one week of non-renewal to the director of the Menard Center for Economic Inquiry.

Additional Requirements: During the Fall 2026 semester, fellowship recipients will be expected to participate in a weekly cohort meeting and attend and present at the University Research Day

or the MCEI Research Day (De Salas Day) with other research scholars. Attendance at cohort meetings will be considered as part of the mid-semester review. In addition, at the end of the semester, students will be required to submit a brief final report which summarizes fellowship outcomes, including any conference presentations or publications that the project yields. Details and format of both the on-campus presentations and the final report will be announced at a later date.

Questions about the Gail Werner-Robertson Research Fellowships may be addressed to Marney Goeser (marneygoeser@creighton.edu).

To subscribe to the CEI mailing list for upcoming events, scholarships, and research opportunities, please e-mail Rafael Acevedo (rafaelacevedo@creighton.edu)