



SDMS FOUNDATION EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The SDMS Foundation Emerging Leaders Program annually invites a cohort of students and recent graduates to be mentored as future leaders in the sonography field and with the SDMS. Program participants participate virtually in a variety of leadership education opportunities, designed to engage them in meaningful dialogue and projects related to the future of the profession and leadership volunteerism. The experience culminates with one member of the cohort (chosen based on participation, project/assignment completion, and other factors) receiving a grant to attend the fall SDMS and SDMS Foundation Board of Directors Meetings and SDMS Annual Conference free of charge (including travel). All other participants receive a free year of SDMS membership and complimentary full conference registration to the SDMS Annual Conference.

COHORT SELECTION

Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements and adhere to all program restrictions and limitations. The SDMS Foundation Board of Directors will review completed, eligible applications and select participants for the annual cohort. Selections are based on:

- Leadership potential, demonstrated through the Program Director's nomination;
- Enthusiasm for participation, reflected in the applicant's responses to application questions; and
- Commitment to program requirements, including attendance at required calls and timely completion of assignments.

Failure to meet program obligations — such as consistent attendance, active participation, or assignment completion — may result in removal from the program. In such cases, participants will forfeit eligibility for program benefits or recognition, including the grant award.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The SDMS Foundation Emerging Leaders Program runs from January through May, offering a dynamic curriculum designed to foster growth and collaboration. Participants will engage in live program calls, complete courses through the SDMS Learning Center, tackle reading assignments, and join collaborative discussions with fellow cohort members and the SDMS Board of Directors via a dedicated Emerging Leaders LinkedIn group. The curriculum will encompass the following areas:

- **Module 1:** Welcome and Introductions
- **Module 2:** General Leadership
- **Module 3:** SDMS and SDMS Foundation Leadership

- **Module 4:** Careers in Sonography
- **Module 5:** Program Essay and Evaluation

GRANT RECIPIENT SELECTION

The SDMS Foundation Board of Directors will evaluate the cohort and assist in determining the grant recipient. Participants will be evaluated based on:

- Participation in scheduled calls and other activities;
- Contribution to ongoing discussions;
- Completion of program assignments; and
- A written summary of their experience and how they plan to apply their leadership skills in the future.

RECOGNITION

The annual grant recipient will receive:

- Expenses paid for 7 days/6 nights (i.e., air and ground transportation, hotel, and meals) for attendance and participation in the Fall SDMS and SDMS Foundation Board of Directors meetings, Liaison Meeting, and the *SDMS Annual Conference*;
- Two (2) complimentary, transferrable tickets to the SDMS & SDMS Foundation Awards event held at the *SDMS Annual Conference*;
- Recognition at the *SDMS Annual Conference* and in the *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography* (JDMS), SDMS press release, and SDMS social media release; and
- One (1) free year of SDMS membership.

All other participants who successfully complete the program will receive:

- A complimentary full conference registration for the same year of their program participation (if they wish to attend the *SDMS Annual Conference* on their own);
- One (1) complimentary, transferrable ticket to the SDMS & SDMS Foundation Awards event held at the *SDMS Annual Conference*;
- Recognition at the *SDMS Annual Conference* and in the *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography* (JDMS), SDMS press release, and SDMS social media release; and
- One (1) free year of SDMS membership.