

Projects for Peace Grants Awarded 2020 and 2021 Grant Winners Announced

College students across the country have once again been challenged to design and undertake Projects for Peace. A total of 125 winning projects have been selected and are being awarded \$10,000 each for implementation during the summer of 2021. In 2007, Projects for Peace was the vision of philanthropist Kathryn W. Davis on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Until her death at 106 in 2013, Mrs. Davis was intent on advancing the cause of peace and sought to motivate tomorrow's promising leaders by challenging them to find ways to "prepare for peace". The Davis family continues to honor her legacy by funding Projects for Peace and is heartened by the quality and inventiveness of the projects to be undertaken in 2021. This year, motivated students submitted winning proposals that address conflict resolution and reconciliation, foster understanding, provide opportunity, and help to build community.

Projects for Peace invites all undergraduates at the American colleges and universities which are partners in the Davis United World College Scholars Program (see www.davisuwcscholars.org) to compete for these grants. Other participating institutions include International Houses Worldwide, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Future Generations University, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, and the University of Maine. "Competition is keen and we congratulate those students whose projects have been selected for funding in 2021," said Philip O. Geier, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Davis United World College Scholars Program that administers Projects for Peace. "We are pleased to once again help young people launch some initiatives that will bring new energy and ideas to improving the prospects for peace in the world."

The Office of the Vice Provost for Enrollment at Cornell extends sincere thanks to all Cornell University students who designed and submitted projects. Selecting one winner was a challenge because of the extraordinary depth of ideas and quality of submissions received. Congratulations to the Cornell students whose projects were selected.

2020 Projects for Peace Winner: Omisha Manglani, Cornell University Student

Omisha Maglani is a senior in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, studying Environmental and Sustainability Sciences and International Agriculture and Rural Development, with minors in Marine Biology and Climate Change Science. Omisha is from India.

Omisha's project is Food Sovereignty, Indigenous Plant Knowledge & Education in Spiti Valley, India. This project will employ the interdependence of health and education as a tool toward food sovereignty using an educational curricula designed to integrate indigenous plant knowledge in Munsel Ling Home School, Rangrik, Spiti Valley, a remote desert region. During the summer of 2021, Omisha will bring together the school and indigenous elders, medicine men, and local conservationists, to support providing indigenous students with tools needed to thrive on the front lines of climate change impacts. Utilizing the skills of indigenous knowledge that surrounds rural children in everyday livelihoods, the project hopes to make conceptions around health sovereignty relevant and attainable.

2021 Projects for Peace Winner: Joanna Papadakis, Cornell University Student

Joanna Papadakis is a senior in the College of Human Ecology, studying Human Development, with minors in Global Health and Biological Sciences. Joanna's family is from Greece.

Joanna's project is Project Eleftheria (Ελευθερία) or, when translated, Project Freedom. This project intends to unify community resilience and peacebuilding efforts for women in conflict settings by fostering maternal empowerment and a safe clinic space for refugee mothers and children in Athens, Greece. During the summer of 2021, and with support from the Davis Projects for Peace, Joanna plans to allocate funds towards creating a maternal health clinic and offering a maternal health empowerment program in collaboration with the Greek NGO CHEERing, at the Elna Maternity Center, a shelter serving 130 refugee mothers and children.

For more information on Projects for Peace, see www.davisprojectsforpeace.org. For Cornell specific Projects for Peace initiative outreach, see <https://admissions.cornell.edu/apply/international-students/davis-projects-peace>.