

Rhode Island College
2019 Rose Butler Browne Award

About the Award

The Rose Butler Browne Award was established in 1976 by friends and admirers of Dr. Browne, a 1919 graduate of Rhode Island College, who during her lifetime demonstrated outstanding leadership in professional and community affairs. The award is funded by an endowment within the Rhode Island College Foundation and presented at Cap and Gown Convocation.

About Dr. Rose Butler Browne

Dr. Rose Butler Browne was born in Boston, Mass. In 1897, she moved with her family to Newport, Rhode Island where she grew up. While working as a live-in domestic she earned a bachelor's degree at Rhode Island State College, now the University of Rhode Island. She went on to earn her master's degree at Rhode Island College and then to Harvard University where, in 1939, she became the first black woman to earn a doctoral degree in education. In 1950, she received an honorary degree from Rhode Island College, and in 1969 a seven-story Rhode Island College residence hall was named in her honor.

Doctorates in hand, Dr. Browne went south and served on the faculties of Virginia State College, West Virginia State College and Institute, and Bluefield State College in West Virginia. She then transferred to the faculty of North Carolina where she served as chairman of the Education Department. A crusader for black rights, Dr. Browne once refused to send students into teaching jobs in West Virginia as long as State's Board of Education continued paying black teachers less than white teachers. The publicity and subsequent shortage of teachers forced the board to end its discrimination. After retiring in 1963, Dr. Browne operated a day care center for children at the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Durham where her husband was the pastor. Later, upon returning to Rhode Island, she operated a summer school focused on the culture gap faced by black children, and later worked with senior citizens.

In her 1969 autobiography, Love My Children, Dr. Browne attributed most of her motivation to the influence of her great-grandmother, Charlette Ann Lindsay, named the "High Priestess" by her family. The daughter of an American Indian chief, she married a southern slave, worked six years to buy his freedom and later, in hope of bettering her children, migrated to a Boston ghetto. The "High Priestess" convinced Dr. Browne as a child that she, too, must overcome obstacles to better herself and her family. Rose Butler Browne passed away in 1986 at the age of 89.

The Rose Butler Browne Award recipient must be a graduating senior enrolled at Rhode Island College with a **grade point average of 2.5 or better**. Nominees are expected to have completed **at least 100 hours of voluntary or paid service** to a disadvantaged population during the preceding year in a non-profit agency or social justice activity; such as a rehabilitation center, community action/support group, or educational services center. Applicants are expected to have demonstrated leadership skills through effective, current performance in a leadership role and through recognition of leadership skills by their peers or supervisors. Most importantly, recipients are expected to have a commitment to continued development of their leadership potential as evidenced through application materials and/or a personal interview.

The Rose Butler Browne Award will be presented at the Cap and Gown Convocation in April 2019.

In order to be considered, applications must be received by the due date and are required to be accompanied by a **letter of reference from a service project supervisor**, a completed **personal statement** that speaks to the values and characteristics displayed by Dr. Browne, and a **faculty signature** of endorsement.

About the Application

Applicants must:

- be a RI College graduating senior (December 2018, May or August 2019)
- have a GPA of 2.5 or better
- have contributed at least 100 hours of voluntary or paid service (**excluding work required for course credit, course completion, field placement or internship**) to a disadvantaged population during the previous year.

Application materials:

- Application forms - Available in the Unity Center, and online at <http://www.ric.edu/unitycenter/documents/RBB2018.pdf>
- Letter of support from a service project supervisor
- Relevant personal statement
- Faculty endorsement signature
- One additional supporting document may be submitted.

Submission Deadline: Friday, March 22, 2019

Submit to: Rose Butler Browne Selection Committee, The Unity Center, DDC Lower Level room 14 (456.8791)

Rhode Island College
Rose Butler Browne Award
2019 Application

Applicant Name: _____ **Date of Application:** _____

Address: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Email: _____ **Telephone #** _____

Graduation Date (check one): _____ December 2018 _____ May 2019 _____ August 2019

Major: _____ **Minor:** _____ **Grade Point Average:** _____

Applicant's description of at least 100 hours of voluntary or paid service (excluding work required for course credit, course completion, field placement or internship) provided to a disadvantaged population during the previous year. (attach additional pages as needed)

Please attach the following supporting documentation to your application:

Letter of support from service/project supervisor – referencing applicant's character, dates and nature of service contribution (please attach).

Applicant's Personal Statement – including reference to (1) the most influential person in your life; (2) the most influential event in your life; and (3) commitment to developing your leadership potential (please attach).

Faculty endorsement/signature _____ **date:** _____

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Please make sure all application requirements are included with your submission. An interview may be requested by the selection committee.

Please submit application to the Rose Butler Browne Selection Committee

Via email: [prahmanian](mailto:prahmanian@rhodeislandcollege.edu)

Or at the Unity Center, DDC Lower Level (401-456-8791)