The Doris I. Walker Trailblazer Scholarship is awarded annually to eligible graduate students in the department of English at CSUDH. Candidates must be enrolled in the program at the time of both application and award disbursement to qualify. The $1000 stipend will be granted each fall for spring semester to applicants on a competitive basis. To apply, students must submit:

- An essay, not to exceed 750 words, which speaks to the applicant’s qualifications based on the spirit of the award (see description below). The essay must address:
  1. The applicant’s interpretation of “trailblazing,” explaining how and why s/he embodies the concept through their goals, experiences, activities, and/or personality
  2. A brief treatment of the applicant’s educational progress, including a statement on how and where the CSUDH MA program fits into it
  3. An outline of how the applicant plans to use the funds in support of the above (book purchases, professional travel funds, etc.)

- As part of the terms of the scholarship, recipients agree to submit a short follow-up report on how the funds were utilized in the service of their educational goals at the end of the academic year in which they received the award

Send an electronic copy of the application essay, with the subject heading “Walker Scholarship Application,” by no later than OCTOBER 1, 2015, to Dr. Jane J. Lee at jlee@csudh.edu. Questions about the scholarship can also be directed to Dr. Lee.

Doris I. Walker (1933-2011) was an award-winning Southern California-based writer, journalist, teacher and historian. She is the author of 14 published books, many of which cover the subject of local California history, such Dana Point Harbor - Capistrano Bay: Home Port for Romance. This book focused on the natural history of the south Orange County area, going back to the beginnings of its indigenous population. Several of her articles and books have also focused on the Spanish settlements in California, including Rancho Dominguez. She also wrote and published two books for children. Doris worked for over 50 years as a writer, editor and photojournalist on magazines and newspapers, initially in Chicago, Illinois, and then in Southern California, where she moved in 1963. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Ms. Walker began writing at age eight, and was the valedictorian of her high school class. While earning her bachelor’s degree at Cleveland’s Case Western Reserve University, she became the first female editor in the history of the university newspaper. She then pursued graduate studies at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, prior to beginning her professional career. In addition to her writing, she also taught classes at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, California, and served on the Orange County Historical Commission. A longtime resident of Dana Point, she was honored as its Citizen of the Year in 2007.

Ms. Walker could speak on many subjects knowledgeably yet was always open to new enterprises. She embraced creativity, unique adventures and interactions with people, animals and history. The Doris I. Walker Trailblazer Scholarship honors Ms. Walker's memory by competitively awarding funds to support English graduate students who embody the kind of pioneering activities that Doris strove to represent.