

Summer Research Fellows Program 2021

The Grantmakers for Education Learning, Evaluation, & Data Impact Group (LEAD), in partnership with the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE), is pleased to share that it will again offer the Summer Research Fellows Program. The program's purpose is to provide GFE members with the opportunity to have a research question answered by an educational researcher. Check out last year's projects [here](#).

In its third year, the program provides the opportunity for GFE members to be matched with a graduate student summer fellow. The summer fellow (a current doctoral student, supervised by a university faculty member) will:

- Spend 320-400 hours (equivalent of 8-10 weeks) during June - September (exact dates TBD by member and fellow) reviewing the literature on the client's project, synthesizing the material and preparing deliverables.
- Engage by video conference with the client at least three times during the fellowship to refine the project parameters, check in to receive feedback and present the findings.
- Provide the member with a research plan at the beginning of the project.
- Provide the member with a literature review (approximately 20 pages in length).
- Write an executive brief (1-2 pages) summarizing the main takeaways for a philanthropic audience.
- Present, potentially in conjunction with the GFE member, at GFE and/or SREE's annual conferences on the final research findings.

The GFE member will also have the opportunity to participate in the fellow interview process if they desire as well as sessions at the GFE's 2021 annual conference and/or the SREE 2021 annual conference.

To be considered for a summer fellow this year, please complete [this interest form](#) by 11:59 PM Pacific Time on April 30.

The process will be moving very quickly. The goal is to have fellows selected by June 4, 2021.

Additional Program Details

The GFE LEAD Impact Group is bringing this opportunity to GFE members and is subsidizing the costs of the summer fellows by paying all administrative costs associated with the program delivery.

In exchange, the GFE member agrees to meet with the fellow at least three times over the course of the summer (launch, mid-point discussion, and final presentation of literature review), offer feedback to the fellow, and provide \$12,000 to SREE to cover direct costs of the fellow. This fee covers the fellow's time on the member's project, as well as attendance and travel to the GFE and/or SREE annual conferences.

The criteria that will be used to determine whether a GFE member can participate in the program are: the GFE member's willingness to pay, feasibility of proposed research, fellow interest in the proposed research topic, and the ability to match with a qualified student.

The fellow review and selection process will be managed primarily by a member subcommittee of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness.

Example Summer Fellowship

A K-12 funder who has traditionally focused on teaching and learning is considering an expansion into college access. Before committing its resources, the funder wants to understand better the current trends and barriers in college access, as well as promising and proven solutions to increase college access, especially among underserved populations. The funder has done no research on the topic but generally follows news about college access. Key questions: At what rate do students of color attend college immediately after high school? How does this compare to their white counterparts? What stops these students from matriculating in college? What works to increase college access for this population? Answers to these questions will help the funder decide whether and how to expand into college access.

After an initial conversation with the funder to understand better her interests, the summer fellow prepares a research plan, conducts a review of existing literature, produces a literature review, and customizes a one-to-two-page brief that highlights the main takeaways most relevant for the funder audience. The fellow presents this work in a final meeting at the end of the summer, as well as at the GFE and/or SREE annual conferences.

Contacts for Further Information

Should you have any questions or comments, please email Ellen Weiss, executive director at the Society for Research on Education Effectiveness, at eweiss@sree.org and/or Bethany Miller, deputy director, learning & impact at Ascendium Education Group, at bmiller2@ascendiumeducation.org.

The LEAD Impact Group

The Grantmakers for Education Learning, Evaluation & Data Impact Group's mission is to support GFE members to use data, research and evaluation to improve philanthropic practice, policies and strategies. GFE envisions that the impact groups "[will continue to support communities of members with a common interest who agree to work together toward a common goal.](#)" One of the LEAD's common goals is the Summer Research Fellows Program. Current LEAD fellowship subcommittee members include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Helios Education Foundation, KnowledgeWorks, Ascendium Education Philanthropy and Trellis Foundation. To learn more or to join the LEAD Impact Group, please find more information [here](#).

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

The Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness's (SREE) mission is to advance research on policies, programs and practices that cause educational and related outcomes. The society publishes the Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness (JREE) and holds an annual research conference. The society also provides resources to advance research relevant to practice, from early childhood through the transition to higher and continuing education. These resources include a professional development video library and the Registry of Efficacy and Effectiveness Studies. To learn more, visit www.sree.org.