

Summer Research Fellows Program

The Grantmakers for Education Data Impact Group, in partnership with the [Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness](#) (SREE), is pleased to share with Grantmakers for Education members the launch of a new pilot program, the Summer Research Fellows Program. The program's purpose is to provide Grantmakers for Education members with the opportunity to have a research question answered by an educational researcher.

In this inaugural year, ONE Grantmakers for Education member will be matched with a summer fellow. The summer fellow (a current doctoral student, supervised by a university faculty member) will:

- Spend 10-12 weeks (June-September, exact dates TBD) reviewing the literature on the client's project. (See the bottom of this document for a hypothetical project description.)
- Engage with the funder at least three times during the fellowship to refine the project parameters, check in to receive feedback and present the findings.
- Provide the client with a literature review (up to 20 pages).
- Write an executive brief (1-2 pages) summarizing the main takeaways for a philanthropic audience.

To be considered for a Summer Fellow this year or in the future, please complete [this survey](#) by 11:59 PM Pacific Time on April 22.

Grantmakers for Education members who express interest in a 2019 fellow will be notified in April whether their request can be considered in the pilot year. Fellow matching will occur in May. If enough interest exists, the program may be extended to future years. Please indicate your interest on the survey.

Additional Program Details

The Grantmakers for Education Data Impact Group is bringing this opportunity to GFE members. The selected Grantmakers for Education 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 modest professional feedback to the

fellow, and ideally provide \$10,000 to Grantmakers for Education to cover direct costs of the fellow. The member will also have the opportunity to participate in pilot debrief with the partners and a panel discussion on the pilot at Grantmakers for Education's annual conference.

Because the selected GFE member and/or their summer fellow may have an opportunity to present at the annual Grantmakers for Education conference, preference may be given to research topics that align with the conference theme, *Supporting Students in Overcoming Adversity: Agency, Justice, Equity*. For more information on the theme, click [here](#). Other criteria—Grantmakers for Education member's willingness to pay, feasibility of proposed research, fellow interest—may weigh more in the matching process.

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 conducts review of existing literature, produces a literature review [similar to this one](#), and customizes a 1-2 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.

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 ellen@sree.org and/or Bethany Miller, program officer at The Kresge Foundation at bmmiller@kresge.org.

The Data Impact Group

The Grantmakers for Education (GFE) Data Impact Group's mission is to increase the power of data by enabling organizations to collect, interpret, value and act on educational data from cradle to career. Grantmakers for Education impact groups are organized to achieve measurable impacts and provide value to the broader GFE community. This partnership with SREE is one way the group seeks to support other GFE members. Current group members include The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Helios Education Foundation, KnowledgeWorks, The Kresge Foundation, Lumina Foundation, and Trellis Foundation. To learn more or to join the Data Impact Group, please find more information [here](#).

Society for Education 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.