CALL FOR SERVICE LEARNING FELLOWSHIPS

The Blum Initiative for Global and Regional Poverty Studies is pleased to announce the call for the Blum Initiative Service-Learning Fellowship (BISLF) for currently enrolled UC Riverside undergraduate and graduate students. The BISLF is a funding opportunity for students who would like to pursue a domestic or international immersive volunteer or internship position. BISLF recipients will identify and partner with a non-profit or government agency, receive a stipend to subsidize their travel expenses, and a fellowship stipend of up to $3,200.00 to subsidize the cost of living during the fellowship.

BISLF affords students the unique opportunity to engage in service learning. The Blum Initiative expects recipients to learn about poverty while serving a community or population in need. More generally, recipients will engage in service-learning that complements the mission of the Blum Initiative. Specifically, the Blum Initiative aims to encourage the study of poverty throughout the world (including developing countries and/or rich democracies), across the U.S., and especially within the Inland Empire and Southern California. By poverty, the Blum Initiative is interested in relative and material deprivation, economic insecurity, and a host of related inequalities and disparities.

There is no pre-approved list of groups with which the student can volunteer, but those organizations that provide assistance, health, water and sanitation, housing, and/or educational services to underserved and impoverished communities are plausible examples. The organization’s activities should be consistent with the mission of the Blum Initiative.

If a potential applicant is interested in a service-learning fellowship and would like assistance finding an appropriate organization or has general questions regarding the application, please contact Justine Ross at justine.ross@email.ucr.edu. The Blum Initiative has a network of potential organization and can connect you with some possibilities.

Funding & Use of Funds
Each BISLF will include a stipend of up to $3,200.00 for living expenses and a stipend to subsidize travel to/from the non-profit, commensurate with market rates. The exact number of BISLF’s awarded will be contingent on the quantity and quality of the applications, but it is anticipated at least three fellowships will be awarded.

Eligibility and Requirements
Applications are invited from all UC Riverside undergraduate or graduate students, who have a) completed at least one quarter of coursework at UCR prior to the application deadline, b) are currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program, and c) are in good academic standing.

UC Riverside undergraduate or graduate students, who: a) have completed at least one quarter of coursework at UCR prior to the application deadline, b) will have not graduated prior to August 31, 2018, and c) are in good academic standing are eligible for the BISLF.

Applicants will only be considered:
• If the service-learning experience will be completed before the beginning of Fall quarter, 2017

1 Fellowships are deemed taxable income pursuant to Section 117(A) of the Internal Revenue Code and may impact recipients’ financial aid status if the award is used during the academic year. It is incumbent on the recipient to understand the tax and aid implications of the award prior to accepting the fellowship. If you have questions regarding your financial aid status, please contact UCR’s Financial Aid Office.
• If the service-learning experience involves a minimum of 150 hours of volunteer work over at least 4 consecutive weeks (though higher hours/periods are encouraged)
• If the student has made contact with an organization and can provide written documentation verifying s/he will be able to volunteer with the organization
• Should the experience require certain credentials (e.g. emergency medical technician licensing), proof of such credentials must be included as part of the application
• If the application is fully completed and all supplemental forms are submitted via email by the deadline

Deadline & Submission
All application materials must be submitted by March 2nd, 2018 at 5:00pm. All materials must be submitted electronically to Justine Ross at justine.ross@email.ucr.edu and the subject line of your email must read: your-last-name_department_BISLF.

Review
The Blum Initiative steering committee and staff will review applications. The assessment will consider the extent to which the proposal aligns with the objectives of the Blum Initiative, is of service to an in-need community, and meaningfully contributes to the student’s education and understanding of poverty and inequality. Decisions should be made promptly and applicants will be notified via email.

Application
Please make sure you complete the following steps prior to submitting your application. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.
1. Identify a poverty-related organization that is accepting volunteers or interns. Keep in mind, the organization you work with must relate, in some way, to the mission of the Blum Initiative.
2. Contact the organization and receive written permission to volunteer/intern under their guidance. You must submit a copy of this permission (e.g. an email, letter, etc.) with your application. It is also helpful to provide as much detail as possible on the organization.
3. Compile an application including the following materials:
   1. A cover sheet detailing your name, contact information, status at UCR (including date of enrollment, expected completion date, program/major/school)
   2. An essay (maximum one-page, single-spaced) explaining your plans and goals for the service learning experience.
   3. A copy of your academic transcript from UCR.
   4. A resume detailing any relevant experience, education or activities
   5. A budget with expected major expenses, including travel
   6. A written copy of permission (e.g. an email, letter, etc.) from the organization you will be working with.

The materials listed in point 3 must be submitted via email to Justine Ross (justine.ross@email.ucr.edu) by the application deadline.

The subject line of your email and all attached documents should read: last-name_department_BISLF.

Details & Requirements for Recipients
• The recipient must submit a brief essay on the project after completion (e.g. motivation, accomplishments, findings/conclusions, etc.). This essay and any accompanying photos may be displayed on the Blum Initiative webpage.
• Upon completion of their fellowship, the recipient must procure and submit a written letter from their host non-profit to the *Blum Initiative* confirming the fellow’s participation and activities.

• Major changes to the service-learning proposal must be submitted in writing to Professor David Brady (*Blum Initiative*, Director) and require prior authorization.

• If the fellow does not complete the immersive learning experience detailed in their proposal, they are required to return all funds dispersed via the stipends to the *Blum Initiative* by September 30, 2017.

• All publications or presentations that result from the grant must acknowledge funding from the Blum Initiative.

• The *Blum Initiative* will administer funds in a manner consistent with University requirements. To this end, the above parameters are not exhaustive. Please contact Justine Ross (justine.ross@email.ucr.edu) if you have further questions.