

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Graduate School of Education is pleased to share a newly established multi-disciplinary fellowship. This innovative, community-engaged research opportunity honors the legacy of the late Dr. Marcus Foster, an education reformer and first African American superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District. The Marcus Foster Fellowship's aim is to cultivate integrative teams of fellows to co-construct theories and research practices in community settings with the objective of attaining equity in education through systemic change.

Due to the funding structure of the fellowship, all inaugural fellowship recipients will be selected by **May 1, 2020**, with all fellowships paid out across a two-year period. A selection committee comprised of UC Berkeley faculty and representatives from MFEI will review applications January through March, 2020. The two-year fellowship will provide up to \$50,000 in funding and is designed to support students with a demonstrated interest in developing research, policy, and practice expertise in systems change to diminish disparities in education in California and beyond.

The Marcus Foster Fellowship seeks to support students with an interest in research and shifting the social paradigms through improvements to educational and social systems. With seed funding from the State of California, the GSE is partnering with the [Marcus Foster Education Institute](#) (MFEI) to implement this exciting new graduate fellowship opportunity. In the tradition of Dr. Foster, MFEI has worked extensively with education and other governmental institutions for the purposes of changing systems to improve student success.

The Fellowship posits that the field of education warrants thought partnership and deep engagement with a variety of disciplines. For this reason, nominations and applications are invited from both newly admitted and current doctoral students from the following schools and programs: **Graduate School of Education, School of Public Health, School of Social Welfare, Goldman School of Public Policy, College of Environmental Design, the Departments of African-American and Ethnic Studies, Sociology, and Political Science, School of Information, School of Law and master's students at the Graduate School of Journalism.**

Successful candidates will clearly demonstrate a genuine interest in:

- Systems change, primarily focused on public education, and how social services agencies, judicial and penal systems, health, social and economic systems can more effectively align to improve education and broader societal outcomes
- Community-engaged research, working in multidisciplinary teams while simultaneously focussing on individual area(s) of research
- Areas of research focused on inequity, inequality and disparities

In addition to any coursework or other requirements from your department, existing students selected as Marcus Foster Fellows, must also commit up to **5-10** hours/week over the two-year fellowship period to:

- Collaborate with fellows from other disciplines for the purposes of co-designing research concepts based on the needs of existing community groups
- Participate in community engagement meetings, primarily in Oakland
- Participate in regularly occurring professional development seminars
- Co-create evaluation methodology for the fellowship including formative and summative evaluation and continuous improvement strategies for collective impact
- Engage with the state legislature members during annual visits to Sacramento to share major findings of research projects

Applicants interested in being considered for the Fellowship, must complete [this application](#) and **write a personal statement** responding to the following questions (Max. 3000 words).

- What does systems change mean to you?
- What are your experiences, if any, with community-engaged research?
- What are your thoughts about how community-engaged research can create systemic change in education and social equity at scale?
- What experiences, if any, have you had in improving quality of life outcomes through systemic change? Please share the focal issue(s) and details about the context or setting where this work was conducted.

Applicants must also provide a letter of recommendation from their faculty advisor. They must be a California resident, have not advanced to PhD candidacy, and be in good academic standing.

Thank you for helping us honor Dr. Foster's legacy and giving consideration to this opportunity. Applications and recommendations should be submitted to gsedean@berkeley.edu by **March 6, 2020**.