



STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE

Students at the Center Distinguished Fellowship

Cohort 2 Application

Overview

JFF's Student-Centered Learning Research Collaborative ("the Research Collaborative") will select six leaders who are currently serving as classroom educators or school administrators in the New England area to comprise its next cohort of Students at the Center Distinguished Fellows. These Fellows will serve as Research Collaborative members during their tenure (January 2019-June 2020), working closely with researchers engaged in its six active studies as well as its cohort of youth researchers. Selected Fellows will receive a \$10,000 stipend over the course of their tenure, as well as access to an "impact fund" of up to \$5,000 per year to support school-related efforts to apply student-centered learning research in practice. Fellows will be supported to produce public-friendly materials that help various stakeholders understand the role student-centered learning research and implementation can play in our efforts to achieve equity. This program is generously supported by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

JFF's Student-Centered Learning Research Collaborative

In 2016, JFF's Students at the Center initiative announced a first-of-its-kind research collaborative that is building, defining, applying, and sharing a robust evidence base for student-centered learning. This bold initiative, the Student-Centered Learning Research Collaborative, began with a core group of scholars, school leaders, policymakers, practitioners, and funders, each known for their impact and influence, coming together to clarify and catalyze the field. Their charge: to work in partnership to investigate and evaluate what we know about student-centered learning both in and beyond today's schools, and then leverage that knowledge to affect meaningful change at scale. The Student-Centered Learning Research Collaborative is grateful for thought leadership and anchor funding from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation and additional support from the Barr Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Oak Foundation, and Overdeck Family Foundation.

Learn more about the Student-Centered Learning Research Collaborative and the Distinguished Fellowship at sclresearchcollab.org.

About the Distinguished Fellowship

The Students at the Center Distinguished Fellowship is an eighteen-month program open to six competitively selected fellows. The Fellowship will support a cadre of emerging and established leaders within the student-centered learning movement, better equipping them to:

- Analyze research in order to apply evidence of what works to student-centered learning policy and practice.
- Translate student-centered learning research for different audiences.
- Produce implementation and communication tools related to student-centered learning, grounded in research, that help everyday practitioners and policymakers use the best available knowledge to create positive measurable outcomes for all students, particularly those least served by our educational institutions.
- Work across a multi-disciplinary network to study and share knowledge of student-centered learning approaches.

Fellowship Activities

- **Thought-partnering:** Fellows will convene virtually and in-person multiple times throughout the fellowship for networking, workshops, project development assistance and feedback, and relationship building.
- **Engagement with the Research Collaborative:** Fellows will have the unique opportunity to engage with the Collaborative, including reviewing and providing recommendations on funding for new research studies, working closely with youth and senior researchers on current projects, and connecting with eminent scholars in the field of student-centered education. Fellows will be offered the option to “embed” in a research team to help them with data gathering and analysis and to translate findings for stakeholder audiences.
- **Research translation:** With the support of JFF, fellows will each create 3-4 field-friendly deliverables to enhance public understanding of student-centered approaches, their foundation in research, and their potential to enhance equity. Types of materials include, but are not limited to: implementation toolkits, infographics, professional development modules, videos, podcasts, blogs, op-eds, and virtual site visits or demonstrations of practice.
- **Field-building:** Fellows will have access to up to \$5,000 per year in “impact funds” to be used to support school-based (or school-related) efforts to apply SCL research in practice. Examples of how Fellows may use such funds include: training in a new SCL approach, attending a conference that focuses on a key aspect of SCL research or implementation, accessing research articles related to SCL practices, purchasing and implementing an SCL-based curriculum, booking travel to conduct a site visit at a school or other learning environment where SCL is flourishing, etc. JFF will produce a simple online application for fellows to propose projects that draw from their impact fund and will review those applications on an ad hoc basis throughout the year.

Eligibility

If you have expertise in and passion for equity-enhancing, research-based, student-centered learning, we want you! Additionally, successful candidates will be:

- Located in New England
- A current classroom-level educator or school-level administrator
- Experienced practitioners of and advocates for student-centered approaches within their sphere of influence (e.g., classroom, school, district, etc.)
- Deeply committed to the struggle for equity and have demonstrated experience with and/or understanding of the assets marginalized students possess, along with the barriers they face and the justice-oriented approaches needed to overcome them
- Passionately curious about the role research can play in identifying, clarifying, developing, and/or refining best practices

Timeline

Date	Milestone
October 12, 2018	Application opens
November 26, 2018	Application deadline
December 11-14, 2018	Interviews
December 18, 2018	Decisions communicated
January 16, 2018	Announcement; kick-off call

Application

All applications and supporting materials are due by the end of the day on **November 26, 2018** and should be submitted through the [online form](#). We encourage you to draft your questions in a text document before submitting them to the online form. Questions regarding the application may be directed to rsubmit@jff.org.

Questions

1. Briefly describe your current position and its responsibilities.
2. Using the [Students at the Center’s definition of student-centered learning](#) (SCL) and the four tenets that comprise its framework, explain how you have implemented student-centered learning in your work.
3. Describe why you are interested in becoming a Distinguished Fellow.

4. Provide one to two examples that demonstrate your ability to innovate practices, lead colleagues toward needed reforms, and/or initiate measurable changes in your school.
5. Describe how you think SCL can promote more equitable outcomes in education. Alternatively, describe also how you think SCL might perpetuate inequity if we're not strategic in our inquiries and implementation efforts.
6. Provide at least two examples of public-friendly materials you would create if selected as a Fellow, and at least one example of how you might use the "impact fund" to advance our understanding of SCL research and implementation.

Supporting Materials

- Resumé
- Support and commitment from direct supervisor, including approval for any missed work time (see [suggested template](#))
- The name and contact information of **two** references who have direct knowledge of your capacity as an educator, leader, practitioner/supporter of student-centered learning practices, and/or model for others to emulate.