ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project:</th>
<th>Liberatory Education Models: Understanding the Impact of Justice-Focused Education in Mississippi</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization:</td>
<td>Freedom Project Network (Mississippi, US)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Remote</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stipend:</td>
<td>$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding</td>
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<td>Start Date:</td>
<td>September 2021</td>
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ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

We believe that education is the seed of freedom and that youth empowerment, through rigorous, liberatory educational experiences, creates sustainable economic and social mobility for marginalized communities. We consist of three Mississippi-based youth empowerment organizations (the Sunflower County Freedom Project in Sunflower, MS; the Meridian Freedom Project in Meridian, MS; and the Rosedale Freedom Project in Rosedale, MS) and two college access and persistence initiatives, Freedom Summer Collegiate and the Alumni College Success Program. Modeled after the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project of 1964, the Freedom Projects offer 3 fellowships to young people in Mississippi, including the LEAD Fellowship for 7th – 9th graders, the LEAD Collegiate Fellowship and the Freedom Summer Collegiate program for 10th-12th graders, and the Alumni College Success Program for undergraduates. Taken together, Freedom Fellows participate in a 10+-year youth empowerment fellowship from 7th grade through college graduation focused on activism, authentic self-expression, academic enrichment, college access, and college completion. Learn more at https://www.freedomprojectnetwork.org/

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As with many programs, the various components of this experience have developed over time and as separate pieces to respond to the needs of Fellows and program-development opportunities. Now that they have developed cohesion as a seventh-grade-through-college-graduation fellowship, we have a unique opportunity to integrate these components more fully, to assess the impact of these programs as they build on each other, and to develop means of assessing the impact of this experience overall and over a long-term period on students’ ultimate social and economic empowerment. The Leading Edge Fellow would lead these efforts over the course of the 12-month fellowship, collecting and assessing individual program outcomes, soliciting information and feedback from program stakeholders, and developing integrated systems of program evaluation and assessment. The Fellow would be fully integrated into the Freedom Project Network staff, meeting regularly with the Network Executive Director, other staff members across the Network, and attending twice-a-year Network-wide staff summits (occurring remotely at present). This is a full-time commitment for the fellowship year, including dedicated time for professional development activities.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Collecting quantitative and qualitative data and writing a report that analyzes the strengths and areas of growth for each programmatic arm as well as for the 10+-year student experience as a whole.
- Designing and implementing a long-term strategy for data collection and program evaluation that will live beyond the Fellow’s tenure with our organization.
- The Fellow would also be responsible for leading one (virtual) after-school club for students at a Freedom Project site.

This position is only available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program. You may not contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#);
- Alignment with the mission and vision of the Freedom Project Network and its affiliated organizations, particularly the empowerment of young Mississippians from marginalized communities via holistic, liberatory educational experiences;
- Undergraduate teaching experience;
- Experience in qualitative and quantitative data collection and data management;
- Skilled relationship-builder with an understanding of the barriers to educational and economic freedom for low-income communities and communities of color.

Preferred:

- Experience in program evaluation;
- Experience in K-12 education, specifically with afterschool and summer programs;
- Experience with traditionally marginalized and/or rural communities.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: [https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships](https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships);
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org);
- Application deadline: 9pm EDT, May 6, 2021.