ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

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<tr>
<th>Project:</th>
<th>Center for Social Justice at Thurgood Marshall College Fund</th>
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<td>Organization:</td>
<td>Thurgood Marshall College Fund (Washington, DC)</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

Founded in 1987 and named for the U.S. Supreme Court’s first African American justice, Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) is the only national organization exclusively representing the Black College community. TMCF’s mission is to ensure student success by promoting educational excellence and preparing the next generation of workforce talent through leadership development. TMCF serves these students and schools by partnering with corporations, government agencies, and similar workplaces. We first provide access to college for students through scholarships, and secondly prepare them to succeed in economically sustainable careers via internships, full-time employment opportunities, and leadership and professional development. TMCF at the same time provides capacity building for its 47 member-schools, to help them adapt to new challenges and needs. Learn more at https://www.tmcf.org/

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Leading Edge Fellow will become a vital part of a team building the new Center for Social Justice, established in 2020. The Center for Social Justice is creating a research platform for engaging scholars at HBCUs in two areas of research: (1) identifying and evaluating programs that set out to bridge the equity gap for the Black community, including ongoing research that seeks to document those gaps; and (2) identifying and proposing changes to public policies that impede opportunities for Black Americans while deconstructing systemic barriers to advancement. The Center will carry out its mission through consultation, policy analysis and program evaluation in collaboration with academicians, key thought leaders, and public policy scholars from TMCF member-schools and across the political spectrum.

The Center will bring rigorous research both in-house and at HBCUs to pressing questions about equity and opportunity, to help define programs and policies that facilitate social justice for the greater good, all with education at the center. Some of the social justice focus areas will include health, higher education, economic development and opportunity, voting and engagement in the political process. The Leading Edge Fellow will play a central part in establishing this new initiative, providing an exceptional skill building opportunity. The Leading Edge Fellow will perform an environmental scan of social justice research occurring at publicly-supported HBCUs and PBIs. This would include identifying activity in the following areas: centers of excellence (such as various research centers located on HBCU campuses); community programs or clinics that serve the community; charter schools; and institutional research engagements and key professors. This environmental landscape will focus on how HBCUs and PBIs are impacting racial equity today, and will inform the work of the CSJ.

While this kind of research is conducted in mainstream institutions, the Center for Social Justice represents a rare instance in which HBCUs collaborate in building research and programming so central to the Black community. Because of TMCF’s unique mission, we are able to bring together the research and the researchers to break new ground, with transformative implications for national and educational...
policy and practice. This is a full-time commitment for the fellowship year, including dedicated time for professional development activities.

**Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Produce high-quality research, reports, articles and scholarship on social justice issues to inform theory, policy, and practice as well as to enter the public discussion of social justice;
- Identify best practices and evidence-based solutions for social justice issues, by applying cutting-edge research from within the Black community;
- Provide consultation and professional development to HBCU-based researchers and legacy civil rights groups working on social justice issues.

**Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#);
- Excellent writing and communication skills;
- Ability to design and complete rigorous research;
- Experience in data collection and utilization;
- Experience with program management

**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

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