



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

Position Title:	Research Associate
Organization:	Thurgood Marshall College Fund
Location:	Washington, D.C. (In Person)
Stipend:	\$66,000 in year one, \$70,000 in year two, plus health insurance, \$3,500 per year in professional development funding, and up to \$5,000 for relocation costs
Start Date:	September 2023

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The [Dr. N. Joyce Payne Center for Social Justice](#) is devoted to independent research that leads to pragmatic and innovative ideas on how to address the intractable problem of social justice facing society, especially for Black Americans. The mission of the Dr. N. Joyce Payne Center for Social Justice is to influence public policy that improves the lives of Black Americans and all marginalized groups to create a truly just society by conducting and commissioning rigorous policy studies and collecting, supporting, and highlighting research from and about historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Additionally, the Payne Center will support research through a combination of direct funding of academic research via faculty grants; highlighting research and its implications; training the next generation of social justice researchers; and promoting evidence-based recommendations for the creation of more equitable policies.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Payne Center at Thurgood Marshall College Fund seeks a Research Associate to support research efforts on public policy issues affecting the lives of Black Americans and other marginalized groups. The Payne Center serves as a forum for research, policy, and practice. The Center conducts funded research, acts as a clearinghouse for HBCU-created scholarship, executes development programs, collaborates with peer entities, and trains the next generation of HBCU-educated social justice researchers.

The Research Associate will be responsible for researching, writing, and editing of reports, white papers, and fact sheets on public policy issues, including but not limited to: Civic Participation & Social Justice; Economics & Wealth Creation; Educational Equity; The Future of Work; Healthy Families & Communities; and/or Organizational Entities. The Research Associate will also assist with the production of the annual report; in-house and commissioned research projects; convening scholars, public policy leaders, social advocates, and solution-makers; managing a consortium of peer research centers; and contribute to the development of the Center's new academic journal.

This role will provide relevant experience in academic or public policy research and writing, nonprofit management, communications, and outreach; development and grants; community affairs. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities & tasks:

- Drafting and disseminating a portfolio of public policy research publications that advances the Payne Center mission of racial equity and economic advancement of African American communities.
 - Up to 3-4 rigorous, high-impact reports per year in 1-2 key policy areas that advance substantive arguments for federal-level reform and rely on high-quality data and analysis.

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

- 3-4 fact sheets that educate a public audience on key racial equity issues through charts, graphs, and other data visualizations.
- Developing coalition network of other advocacy organizations, contacts on Capitol Hill and at federal agencies, and academics and thought leaders in major Payne Center policy issue areas.
 - Creation of contacts lists and communications protocols to mobilize network, build public support, and exert pressure on policymakers to advance policy goals.
 - A record of legislation and regulatory actions that have originated from research or been shaped by advocacy.
- Creating successful grant applications and/or corporate partnership proposals that help to support the long-term sustainability of the Payne Center; contribute to efforts identifying foundation, corporate, and governmental funding opportunities.
 - 1-2 competitive grant applications per year in topical areas that advance the mission of the Payne Center.
- Contributing to the content management and publication of the Payne Center's new biannual research journal.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Entrepreneurial mindset willing to develop expertise in key policy areas and further Payne Center initiatives.
- Excellent research and communications skills, with the ability to synthesize information, analyze and interpret data, and communicate findings to the public and policymakers.
- Strong interpersonal skills: the ability to develop networks, strengthen professional relationships, and persuade others of Payne Center positions via oral and written communication.

Preferred:

- Knowledge of, or experience in, one or more of the Payne Center's areas of interest, including student loans, urban renewal/community development, globalization, US/Africa relations, state policy reform/financing, increasing civility/community, college access, and employment.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: <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: 9:00pm EDT, March 15, 2023.

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