



“Leadership is understood more as a practice than a position, more a relationship than a role. Leadership is not simply a place in an organizational structure, it is a discipline and a path — a calling to become powerful catalysts of and embodiments of transformation.” Denise Perry (BOLD) and Sendolo Diaminah

ABOUT BLU

Founded in 2009, BLU Educational Foundation’s mission is to build healthy and productive communities of color. In 7 short years, BLU has emerged as a leader in education, galvanizing families, schools, non-profits, communities and students themselves to tackle inequities in our public education systems both at the secondary and postsecondary levels. Helping students and families embrace the value and necessity of a college education is central to its work. To that end, its leadership and advocacy have led to important changes in policy, practice and investments that address the achievement gap and positively impact African American and Latino students. Through its school and community partnerships, BLU offers college access advising, college knowledge, mentoring and financial aid support to primarily first-generation, low-income, students of color who might not otherwise attend college. Since 2010, BLU has awarded more than \$700,000 in scholarships to local students, attending colleges and universities throughout the country. Its students consistently persist and complete college at higher rates than average, and more of them assume leadership roles on their campuses and in their communities. As a complement and necessary to success in its education work, BLU integrates strategies of leadership development, parent involvement and civic engagement.

The Institute for Civic Engagement (The Institute) Fellowship

The Institute for Civic Engagement Fellowship seeks to improve life opportunities for Black students and their communities in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties through the development of a pool of Black men and women from various backgrounds with interest in effectively addressing ongoing and emerging community issues.

Guided by Afrocentric principles and values, The Institute is a transformational development program seeding a new generation of Black leaders who are fully prepared, supported and organized to advocate for, make decisions about, and allocate resources toward equity and social justice.

Through a 6-month long fellowship program, Black leaders participate in an intensive learning and discovery process to build skills and competencies to understand and tackle community barriers using a race-conscious lens and systems’ analyses. Related, fellows build agency to identify and address implicit bias and structural racism. Throughout the fellowship, The Institute works with its community partners and civic, social, political, and community leaders to provide grooming, internship and other opportunities to support fellows’ skill mastery, solidify their rapport with one another and foster a stronger commitment to a change agenda.



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In July 2018, The Institute will invite 20 Black leaders to participate in the second year of the fellowship program.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Anyone with the following;

- 1 year of demonstrated experience as a community, professional, parent or student leader
- A deep-rooted commitment to improving the lives of Black people
- Ability to commit to 6-month fellowship program which means participating in all fellowship activities
- Willingness to volunteer with BLU and/or partners to support at least one education-focused effort or initiative to improve outcomes for Black students. Volunteer activities will be designed to build leadership skills and capacities.
- Live in either San Bernardino or Riverside Counties

What is the Time Commitment?

The fellowship is from September 14, 2018 to March 2019.

- **3-day Intensive Retreat: September 14-16, 2018 in San Bernardino, CA**
 - Friday, September 14 4pm-8pm
 - Saturday, September 15 9am-8pm
 - Sunday, September 16 8am-1pm

- **5 Monthly Sessions**

Evenings or weekends to be determined by fellowship participants

The Institute's fellowship is a 6-month program and a full commitment is required by each participant. Fellows must participate in a mandatory 3-day intensive retreat at the start of the fellowship, then participants will meet once per month thereafter. A participant is expected to attend all sessions. Those who miss more than one (1) session may be denied graduation and may be asked to withdraw from the program. Through a learning community, fellows will; participate in peer-focused relationship building activities, learn together about relevant issues in the field of education, economics, politics, etc., and engage in direct service and grooming opportunities that support the development of effective, engaged community based leadership.

When Can I Apply?

- **August 25, 2018** is the deadline to submit the online application.

When Will I Be Notified If I Am Accepted?

- All selected applicants will be notified via email on or before September 1, 2018



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How Do I Apply?

Complete and submit the following;

➤ **Submit the online application by August 25, 2018**

The online application contains four short essay questions:

- We recommend you answer the questions in a **Word** document and then cut and paste the answers in the online application.
- Given the competitiveness of this application process, we ask that you be concise in your answers and ensure that every word you write is meaningful. Please mind your word count.

Questions:

1. In your opinion, what are the most pressing issues affecting Black communities in the Inland Empire? (100 words max.)
2. What are the reason(s) you have chosen to participate in the Institute for Civic Engagement Fellowship? If your reason comes from personal experience, please be sure to incorporate that into your answer. (150 words max.)
3. Describe one past experience or accomplishment that demonstrates your leadership potential at work, school or in your community to positively impact Black communities. (100 words max.)
4. What would you like to learn/gain from participating in this Fellowship? (100 words max.)

➤ **Upload a copy of your resume or curriculum vitae in the online application.**

BLU Educational Foundation would like to thank you for your interest in The Institute for Civic Engagement Fellowship. We look forward to receiving your application.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns that are not addressed in this information package.

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