

Rural Fellows 2021 Community Application

Rural Fellows is a unique program designed to connect college students to rural Nebraska communities (or a Community of Practice serving rural communities in Nebraska ex: Grow Nebraska, SourceLink, Rural Healthcare Opportunities Program, etc.). Student pairs move into the rural community, for a 10-week period during the summer, to complete community-identified projects. Past projects have ranged from Economic Development, Workforce Development, Tourism, Community Planning, Education, Mental Health, and much more.

Started in 2013, and formerly called Serviceship, this program has shifted to meet ever-changing needs across our state. Research has demonstrated that, like the rest of the country, Nebraska is becoming more diverse. Additionally, rural communities' residents in Nebraska are the oldest population in Nebraska. Therefore, in 2019, Serviceship was elevated to become a Fellows program focusing on building inclusive leadership capacity of the community leaders and students placed in the community. Inclusive leaders have the capacity to bring diverse groups together to innovate and accomplish goals that enhance the lives of all community participants. Prior to arriving in the community, students and community leaders participate in a brief training and development program that enhances the community leader/student team's ability to work together. One community leader stated, *"This is the best onboarding I've ever been involved in. Our team was able to hit the ground running from day one which is why we accomplished so much more than we could have dreamt of possible."*

Training and Development

Pre-Academy: an online asynchronous (can be completed at your own pace over a 3 week period) series of lessons (approximately 8-10 hrs in length) for students and community leads. Topics include - inclusive leadership, strengths, entrepreneurship, community building and more.

Academy: a 2.5 day synchronous interactive team-building experience for students and community leads. Academy is scheduled in Mid-May. Expenses are paid for by the Rural Fellows program. More information will follow in the new year. Upon completion of the Academy, students will move to their placement community to live, work and serve.

Leadership Coaching:

Both student fellows and community leads will have the opportunity to engage in leadership coaching sessions with certified coaches during this experience. These coaching sessions are provided free of charge.

Community Visit:

Dr. Helen Fagan and her team will visit the community (either in-person or virtually) to ensure success and provide support.

Public Presentations:

Community leads and student fellows showcase their accomplishments and highlight their

progress at the conclusion of the program with public presentations. These presentations are coordinated through the Rural Prosperity Nebraska main office, and participants are encouraged to utilize their public relations networks to maximize the impact and reach of their project accomplishments and participation in this program.

Cost/Application:

Completing this application ensures we match you with qualified students sharing the same interests in community development to bring your projects to fruition. The total cost for both students and their housing is approximately \$12,000 (\$5,000 per student pair and \$2,000 for housing). **Supporting funds may be available.**

We are EXCITED to partner with YOU.

Estimated time to complete the application: 20-30 minutes.

Name of Community/County or Community of Practice

Community Lead

Name _____

Position & Organization _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____

Postal code _____

Country _____

Name of Primary Host Organization(s)

Please outline and describe the desired projects and goals to be worked on during 2021 Fellows experience. Include the current standing of this project and its desired path of progress. Be as detailed as possible.

Please list any additional projects or ideas that may be incorporated into the 2021 Fellows experience.

What technical work skills do the projects require? (photography/videography, project planning, interviewing skill, etc)

Student Fellows are required to complete 10 hours of community service in their placement community. Please list any community events and service opportunities that the students could be involved in. If you are a Community of Practice, what ideas do you have for service for your student?

Communities must provide housing for the students during their stay in the community. What type of housing is available for the Student Fellows in your community from approximately May 24-August 6, 2021? If you are Community of Practice, please enter N/A.

We will need to see pictures or a video showing the housing accommodations that you have arranged for the students. You may either upload this now or make arrangements with the team to preview the housing conditions before March 2021.

Communities/Communities of Practice provide payment to the students for their work. Typically, two students go to each community, and each student will earn \$5,000 during their summer

working in the community. We ask communities to budget \$12,000, which will cover payment to each of the students as well as housing costs.

1. How will the community cover this cost?
2. If supporting dollars are available and needed for you to participate, would you be interested in learning about potential funding?

Community Lead - What is your mentoring style? What is your leadership style? (hands-off, collaborative, etc.)

Community Lead - What experiences have you had that have prepared you to manage, mentor and lead students?

Community Lead - Please check each box as you understand each commitment.

I am available to participate in Pre-Academy: an online asynchronous (can be completed at your own pace over a 3 week period) series of lessons (approximately 8-10

hrs in length) for students and community leads. Topics include - inclusive leadership, strengths, entrepreneurship, community building and more.

I am available to participate in Academy: a 2.5 day synchronous interactive team-building experience for students and community leads. Academy is scheduled in Mid-May. Expenses are paid for by the Rural Fellows program. More information will follow in the new year. Upon completion of the Academy, students will move to their placement community to live, work and serve.

I would like to participate in the 2 one-hour Leadership Coaching: Both student fellows and community leads will have the opportunity to engage in leadership coaching sessions with certified coaches during this experience. These coaching sessions are provided free of charge and conducted by certified leadership coaches.

Community Co-Lead

- Name _____
- Position & Organization _____
- Email Address _____
- Phone Number _____
- Mailing Address _____
- City _____
- State _____
- Postal code _____
- Country _____

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Community Co-Lead - What experiences have you had that have prepared you to manage, mentor and lead students?

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Supporting Community Leader #1

Name _____

Position & Organization _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Supporting Community Leader #2

- Name _____
- Position & Organization _____
- Email Address _____
- Phone Number _____

Supporting Community Leader #3

- Name _____
- Position & Organization _____
- Email Address _____
- Phone Number _____

Supporting Community Leader #4

- Name _____
- Position & Organization _____
- Email Address _____
- Phone Number _____

A focus of our program is providing inclusive community leadership development. How do you think your community/community of practice will benefit by this component of the Rural Fellows program?

By becoming a community/community of practice in the Rural Fellows program, you are launching into a unique and transformative leadership development experience that will enhance your abilities as a leader for decades to come. As mentioned earlier the components of the leadership development are as follows:

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We are thrilled you are partnering with us!

Are you excited and ready to commit the time and energy needed for this transformational experience?

Yes

No