

ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION



2023 – HBCU FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

ILBCF BOARD MEMBERS

Jeffrey D. Revere

Dawn L. Harris Jeffries

Sam Balark

Michael P. Lieteau

Willis E. Pennington, Jr.

ILBCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tiffany D. Hightower

Larry C. Williams

Rashod R. Johnson

ILBCF VICE CHAIR

Vincent R. Williams

Donne Trotter

Nicole L. Harvey

ILBCF FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Kendal Parker

Coy Pugh

ILBC JOINT CAUCUS CHAIR

Representative

Carol Ammons

ILBC TREASURER

Senator

Adriane Johnson

ILBC SECRETARY

Representative

Debbie Meyers-Martin

ILBC SERGEANT AT ARMS

Representative

Will Davis

ILBC SENATE CHAIR

Senator

Robert Peters

ILBC HOUSE CHAIR

Representative

Justin Slaughter

ILBC IMMEDIATE PAST JOINT

CHAIR

Representative

Sonya M. Harper

ILBCF CHAIRMAN

Paul Williams

Introduction:

The ILBCF will be hosting a cohort of 6 research fellows (4 Undergraduate/2 Graduate or Law) for the upcoming 2023 veto and 2024 spring legislative session (October 2023-March 2024).

Our fellows will be tasked with issue development, legislative drafting, creating facts sheets, serving as the ILBCF's policy expert, communications and attending several seminars to help them discover in-depth aspects of state government. This fellowship will also provide an opportunity for virtual data collection and qualitative research. Although the fellowship program does not require students to be in Springfield, fellows will be required to remotely work with the Foundation to advance its policy agenda. Based on this, fellows may need to help staff the series of ILBCF events planned for later this fall. Undergraduate fellows will be provided with a \$1,500 stipend for their tenure of work, graduate level fellows will receive a \$2,500 stipend. The Foundation will also cover travel expenses to Springfield for meetings.

Applicants should be currently enrolled at an accredited HBCU institution of higher learning, and are matriculating into their sophomore/junior year or above (to Ph.D). Students must have a 2.7 G.P.A. or above.

All applicants must:

- **Must be an Illinois Resident OR graduated from an Illinois high school and currently attending an accredited HBCU**
- Complete the ILBCF **Fellowship Application**
- Submit scanned copy of official transcripts
- **TWO** 1500 word (or less) essays must be submitted by October 31, 2023.
 - Essay #1: "What is the impact of an HBCU education in an ever-changing legislative environment?" **[MANDATORY TOPIC]**;
 - Essay #2: Submit **ONE** essay on the following topics that deal with critical thought, legislative research and policy analysis such as: 1) Critical race theory: What is the importance of recognizing and teaching all aspects of African American history in academia? Or 2) Following the civil unrest of 2020, many elected officials across the nation enlisted task forces to study the feasibility of financially compensating Blacks, hoping to address systemic wealth and opportunity gaps. Explain the economic impact that reparations would have on Black Illinoisans, and from a policy-standpoint, how would you implement the proposed law? Or 3) How could the state where your HBCU is located benefit from passing legislation of any specific provision included in the ILBC's 4 Pillars to End Systemic Racism in Illinois?
- Submit a copy of your high school diploma.
- Submit a minimum of 1 recommendation letter from faculty at the applicant's schools highlighting the students potential, civic engagement, research/writing and critical thinking.
- Applicants that pass the writing phase will be invited to have a virtual interview prior to selection.
- Submit a recent photograph of himself/herself
- Provide proof of voter registration
- Forward the application and **all** supporting materials to the ILBCF Fellowship Selection Committee by the DEADLINE.
- **All required application materials must be submitted. Any omissions will result in disqualification. (We are willing to accept unofficial transcripts due to the pandemic)**

Application Deadline: All applications for the scholarship must be postmarked by **November 17, 2023**. Applicants that pass the writing phase will be invited to have a virtual interview prior to selection. **Please take note that only applicants selected for the fellowship will be notified by letter.**

ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION

Submit Applications to: Please scan and email all the above listed materials in the requested order to info@ilbcf.org and in the subject line place RE: HBCU Fellows Program

Please complete the following information.

PERSONAL DATA:

Full Name _____ Male ___ Female ___

Permanent Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ Emergency Number _____

Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year) _____ Place of Birth _____ Age _____

Email Address _____

Please tell us how you learned about the ILBCF HBCU Fellowship? _____

EDUCATION:

Name of College (Undergraduate) Address Current Status?

Name of College Professional/Law Address M.A./Ph.D./J.D.?

If in Professional/Law School, how far along are you? _____

List of academic and community achievements: _____

List your area of study: _____

Policy recommendation – Please see details regarding the two required 1500 word (or less) essays outlined above. You may choose to write on any policy issue provided above, plus the mandatory essay topic, on a separate sheet of paper.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that all information in this application is true and accurate.

Applicant Name (print) Date

Applicant Signature Date
