



Concept Paper: TheDream.US Experiential Fellowship Program

Goals:

- Provide TheDream.US Scholars with paid experiential learning opportunities that focus on educational and/or professional development of the Scholar
- Incentivize Partner Colleges to develop and fund paid inclusive fellowships that are available to undocumented students regardless of work authorization
- Develop a sustainable program that does not rely on funding from TheDream.US

Overview: TheDream.US, in partnership with its Partner Colleges, will provide fellowship funds for Scholars with and without work authorization. These fellowships will enable TheDream.US Scholars to participate in experiential learning and professional development opportunities while strengthening their professional skills and building their networks.

Fellowship Definition:

Fellowships are generally defined as short-term learning opportunities that focus on the educational and/or professional development of the fellow. Fellowships can include study in a specific field; research to advance work on a particular issue; development of a new community-based organization or initiative; training to support a fellow's growth; opportunities to further explore a particular field of work; etc. Fellowships are non-employment based opportunities; they are not employee or salaried/hourly positions. (Source: [Immigrants Rising – Creating Fellowship Programs](#))

Fellowship Funds:

- Fellowship funds will be disbursed on a first come, first-serve basis, and subject to available funds.
- Partner College can receive up to \$15,000 per program year for Scholar fellowships.
- All fellowship funds must be offered exclusively to TheDream.US Scholars.
- NOTE: The maximum funds a Scholar can receive over the course of this program is \$8,000.

Fellowship Payment:

- Partner College will determine fellowship payment amount. Payment can be a flat amount for all fellowships offered or varied for each individual fellowship.
 - Total payments will be determined prior to start of fellowship.
 - Guideline (Not Required): For PCs that require a certain # of hours for a fellowship, calculate the total payment using \$20/estimated hour.
- TheDream.US and/or the Partner College will disburse fellowship payment at the end of the fellowship via the Parker Dewey platform.
- Parker Dewey charges roughly a 10% administrative fee which will be covered by TheDream.US.
- Fellows must complete the Parker Dewey Post-Fellowship Survey to receive their payment.

Scholar Eligibility Requirements: TheDream.US Scholars must meet these eligibility criteria to participate:

- Be a currently enrolled TheDream.US Scholar at Partner College;
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; and
- Have a valid SSN or ITIN (individual taxpayer identification number) at time of fellowship application.



Partner College Requirements:

To participate in TheDream.US Experiential Fellowship Program, Partner Colleges must create an experiential fellowship program that is inclusive to undocumented students regardless of work authorization (note: funding is only available to TheDream.US Scholars). The Partner College must create a 1-2 page Concept Paper that provides a brief overview of the fellowship program. ([View sample concept papers here.](#)) This paper must include:

1. **Name of Fellowship Program**
2. **Brief Description of Program** – could include, at minimum, general program information such as:
 - a. Time offered – summer, fall, and/or spring
 - b. Length of fellowship - # of weeks
 - c. Location - on-campus and/or off-campus; in-person, hybrid, and/or remote
 - d. List of potential host sites
3. **Fellowship Award Amount** – is it a set amount? Is there a range?
4. **Student Eligibility Requirements** – must include at minimum this requirement:
 - a. Be a currently enrolled TheDream.US Scholar at Partner College;
 - b. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; and
 - c. Has a valid SSN or ITIN at time of fellowship application.
5. **Application Submission Process** – Explain how students will apply
6. **Program Point of Contact** – Each Partner College must have 2 dedicated staff members to serve as the program point of contacts. Their names, job titles, email, and phone numbers must be included.
7. **Your institution's logo**

Within 3-5 months of launching the Experiential Fellowship Program, the Partner College must also create a program webpage promoting their inclusive fellowship program and/or highlight their fellowship program on their institution's undocumented students resource webpage.

Resources for Creating Inclusive Experiential Fellowships:

Review the following resources as you create a fellowship program that is inclusive to undocumented students:

- [Immigrants Rising – Creating Fellowship Programs for Educational Institutions](#)
- [Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration – FAQ on Experiential and Funding Opportunities for Undocumented Students](#)
- Inclusive Fellowship Programs – Concept Paper Examples
 - [Dominican University's Non-Employment-Based Opportunities \(NEBOs\)](#)
 - [John Jay College's Experiential Learning Fellows Program](#)
 - [Texas A&M University – San Antonio Dream Fellowship](#)
 - [Amherst College RISE Fellowship](#)
- Inclusive Fellowship Programs – Website Examples
 - [Dominican University's Non-Employment-Based Opportunities \(NEBOs\)](#)
 - [Amherst College Meiklejohn Fellows](#)
 - [UCLA Labor Center – Dream Summer Fellowships](#)
 - [Pomona College's Campus Fellowships for Experiential Learning](#)

Sustainability of Program (Funding Model) *All funding is subject to available funds.*

- TheDREAM.US will provide 100% of the funding for the first two years of the fellowship program.
- Partner Colleges will be expected to work with their institution and donors to raise sufficient funds to pay for 50% of the fellowship costs in the third year.
- Thereafter, the Partner Colleges will provide 100% of the funds.