***2021 SWITZER ENVIRONMENTAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM***

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – Please Circulate**

**The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation invites applications from highly talented graduate students in New England and California for Switzer Environmental Fellowships for the 2021-2022 academic year. The Switzer Fellowship includes a $15,000 cash award for academic studies, two leadership development trainings and retreats, and engagement in the Switzer Network. Twenty fellowships will be awarded to assist graduate students in environmental science, policy, justice and related fields. Guidelines and instructions are available on our website at** [**http://www.switzernetwork.org/become-fellow**](http://www.switzernetwork.org/become-fellow)**. All applications must be submitted online per the instructions.**

***Deadline for Applications: January 8, 2021***

**The Switzer Fellowship Program**

For 35 years, the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation has sponsored fellowships for environmental graduate students from diverse academic and personal backgrounds in New England and California. Each fellowship award includes a $15,000 cash award, attendance at two multi-day retreat trainings, and engagement in the nearly 700-member Switzer Network. Additionally, Switzer Fellows have access to grant programs and long-term professional development support throughout their careers. The Switzer Fellowship represents an extraordinary opportunity for selected students, supporting individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership potential for seeking sustainable and equitable solutions to environmental problems. This year we will be selecting the 35th class of Switzer Fellows since the program was founded in 1986.

Twenty Switzer Fellowships are awarded each year to students who are enrolled in graduate programs at accredited institutions in the six New England states and California. Ten fellowships are awarded in New England, and ten in California. Switzer Fellowship awards are extremely competitive; we typically receive over 100 applications for the ten fellowships in each region. A full description of the fellowship program is found on our website at <http://www.switzernetwork.org/become-fellow>. We strongly encourage students of color, first-generation college and graduate students, and individuals from traditionally underrepresented groups in environmental graduate programs to apply.

The goal of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation is to mobilize leaders from diverse disciplines to find integrated solutions to environmental problems. The Switzer Network is a highly respected resource locally, nationally and internationally for non-profit organizations, government agencies, policy makers, and others. Bolstered by the foundation’s long-term support, Switzer Fellows are approaching environmental problems from an intersectional standpoint, addressing scientific, social, economic and political dimensions of complex issues.

**Candidate Profile**

Candidates for the Switzer Fellowship should demonstrate outstanding leadership potential, be able to clearly communicate how they will apply their studies and their expertise to environmental issues, and convey a clarity and sense of purpose about their work. Leadership qualities valued by the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation include an awareness of the systemic inequities that have created disproportionate environmental burdens on some communities, commitment to intersectional and collaborative approaches to problem-solving, and a commitment to public engagement. Candidates for the Switzer Fellowship are chosen not only for their excellence in academic and scientific or technical work, but also on their dedication to aggressively pursue practical and equitable solutions to environmental problems. We seek applications from and will award fellowships to students from many different graduate schools and programs, and from a wide range of backgrounds and life experiences.

The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation is interested in applications from both terminal Master’s degree students and doctoral students. **Master’s students** who are likely to continue to a doctoral program should not apply until the doctoral stage. To be eligible, **PhD students** must have completed at least three years of doctoral study or have passed their qualifying exams as of July 1, 2021 (no exceptions). All potential applicants must be U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. International students are not eligible.

**How to Apply**

The **online application form** and instructions are available on our website at <http://www.switzernetwork.org/become-fellow>. All applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on January 8, 2021, with all required documentation. Paper applications, incomplete applications, or late submissions will not be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact foundation staff by phone at 207-338-5654 or by e-mail as follows:

* For eligibility and general questions, contact Erin Lloyd, Program Director (erin@switzernetwork.org)
* For technical assistance with online applications, contact Laine Kuehn, Administrative Coordinator (laine@switzernetwork.org)