

Millersville University
President's Commission on Cultural Diversity and Inclusion (PCCDI)
Research Mentoring Initiative

Proposal Application Deadline: December 1, 2017
Announcement of Proposal Award: December 29, 2017
Proposal Duration: FY 2017-FY 2019

The President's Commission on Cultural Diversity & Inclusion (PCCDI) in conjunction with the Office of the President is sponsoring a summer research and mentoring initiative (RMI) for underrepresented racial or ethnic or first generation undergraduate students. This collaborative initiative provides research and mentoring workshops that prepare research mentors to support underrepresented racial or ethnic or first-generation undergraduate students as they complete a five-week summer research project. Simultaneously, students involved in this initiative engage in self-advocacy as mentees and professional development as student researchers.

Purpose

The purpose of RMI is to address recommendations from the A-Team's report on closing the graduation gap for underrepresented racial or ethnic or first-generation students. The specific recommendations address through the RMI include: generate substantial resources for African American and Latina/o student need based on scholarships and research opportunities and develop a core group of faculty, staff, and administration of color and people who are committed to African American and Latina/o students.

Rationale

Independent research projects are recognized as a high impact practice that supports student retention and graduation. According to the Millersville University's 2015 National Survey of Student Engagement results, 18% of African American seniors, 21% of Hispanic/Latino seniors, and 26% of White seniors reported working with a faculty member on research.

Training

RMI participants will engage in ongoing mentoring and research workshops/trainings in the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Training for research mentors will learn how to prepare and support underrepresented racial or ethnic or first-generation undergraduate students as they complete a five-week summer research project. Simultaneously, student researchers will be taught how to engage in self-advocacy as mentees and learning activities concentrated on the basics of research along with building relationships.

Research Mentor

Eligibility

For the purposes of the RMI, faculty, staff, and administrators may serve as research mentors. Research mentors wanting to serve in this capacity, must commit to the following:

- Attend fall orientation.

- Meet with the prospective student researcher to complete and finalize the research proposal prior to the application deadline.
- Be in residence during Summer III semester.
- Research mentors may mentor no more than one student.

Responsibilities

- Attend three one hour mentoring training sessions in the spring and three one hour mentoring trainings in the summer.
- Attend the final research presentations at the end of Summer III session.
- Must provide proof of CITI training in Human Subjects Research, if accepted.
- Must complete the Millersville University Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocol.
- Meet with the student researcher between September and November to finalize the research proposal.
- Submit research proposal by deadline.
- If proposal is accepted, initiate an individualized study instruction form upon receipt of award letter.
- Meet a minimum of 2 x a week for 3 hours each time during Summer III to mentor the student researcher.
- Complete experience surveys.
- Ensure that the student researcher present at *Made in Millersville*. For more information on Made in Millersville please see blogs.millersville.edu/madeinMU/. It is recommended that students present their research at a regional/national/international conference.
- Meet with student at least 3 times a semester until the student graduates.
- Must provide evidence of experience of empirical research in your discipline.

Compensation: Three-credit paid independent study during Summer III, upon submission of grade.

Benefits

Benefits to participating in the RMI include the opportunity to:

- Be involved in student/faculty collaborative research, develop research skills set, and contribute to the student's academic success and professional development.
- Develop a pool of student researchers with similar research interest.
- Develop and refine mentoring skills, as it relates to building relationships.

Student Researcher

Eligibility

The students will be selected based on college (five from each college), feasibility of research project, and successful interview. If there are not enough applicants from each college, it is at the subcommittee's discretion to divide and accept additional students from a particular college. The total capacity for this research and mentoring initiative is 15 students per academic year. Students interested in applying to the RMI must:

- Be an underrepresented racial or ethnic or first-generation undergraduate student.
- Have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) between 2.0-3.0 at the time of the application.
- Have completed between 30 and 75 credit hours at the time of application.
- Identified a research mentor who is a faculty, staff, or administrator at Millersville University.
- Be available during Summer III semester. **Note:** students cannot be employed during Summer III or attend conferences as participation in ongoing RMI programming is mandatory. Students are encouraged not to take more than one additional summer course during Summer session III off campus.
- Applicants who have not previously received an RMI award will have first priority.
- Commit to a minimum of 30 hours per week during Summer session III.

Responsibilities

- Meet a minimum of 1 x a week with the research mentor between September and November to complete the research proposal application with mentor and submit to cdi.commission@millersville.edu by the deadline.
- Successfully complete an interview with a subcommittee of the President's Commission on Cultural Diversity & Inclusion (PCCDI) prior to selection.
- If accepted, sign a RMI agreement upon receipt of award letter.
- Attend three one hour mentee training sessions in the spring and three one hour mentee trainings in the summer.
- Participate in weekly Getting Inspired sessions.
- Meet a minimum of 2 x a week for 3 hours each time during Summer III with research mentor.
- Complete the CITI training in Human Subjects Research, if accepted, to ensure ethical practices, and submit certificates to cdi.commission@millersville.edu by the end of winter break.
- Apply for research grants to fund expenses associated with research.
- Apply for travel grants (e.g. Noonan Endowment Fund, Student Senate, PCCDI) to fund expenses associated travel and conference presentations. For further student research opportunities, go to the Millersville University Sponsored Programs & Research Administration website.
- Complete the research project by engaging and collaborating with research mentor.
- Complete the experience surveys.
- Present the research project at the following venues:
 - Participants at the end of the five-week Summer III semester.
 - Member so the President's Commission on Cultural Diversity and Inclusion (PCCDI) during the fall or spring semester.
 - Made in Millersville during spring semester.
 - A regional/national/international discipline specific conference, which may occur outside of the dates of the project.

Compensation

- Free room and board on campus during the five-week research experience.
- A \$1,500 stipend to be paid at the conclusion of Summer III.

Benefits

- Three credits of independent study research experience.
- Establishing and maintaining mentoring relationship during their academic career and beyond.
- Developing professional skill sets including: building relationships, conducting ethical research and professional presentations, and networking.

Additional Information

Application

The application consists of:

- Student and faculty contact information
- Project Title
- Narrative (500 to 750 words)
 - purpose
 - brief literature review
 - methodology
 - data analysis
 - timeline
 - outcomes
- Estimated Budget

Evaluation of Research Proposal Applications

Research proposal applications will be reviewed and evaluated by members of the RMI subcommittee comprised of Members of the President's Commission on Cultural Diversity & Inclusion (PCCDI) and Campus constituents. RMI subcommittee members will utilize a RMI Proposal evaluation rubric that includes a successful interview.