



Public Engagement Faculty Fellows Program

We are pleased to announce the **2026-27 College of Education Public Engagement Faculty Fellows Program**. Public Engagement Fellows will play an important role in helping the College of Education meet community needs through research and teaching. The fellows meet monthly as a cohort to discuss their community-engaged work and provide input into college-level public engagement strategy. All fellows will work closely with one or more educational community partners including schools, educational nonprofits, after school programs, summer camps, and community colleges located in Illinois. In addition to their own community-engaged projects, Public Engagement Fellows will assist the College of Education with a project to advance the College's strategic vision for public engagement.

For the 2026-27 program Interested faculty may apply to two different opportunities:

1. **Research Fellows**
2. **Teaching Fellows**

Research Fellows

Overview

This cohort-based program enhances community-engaged research in the College of Education. Faculty will work closely with educational partners to develop research studies that address social and civic issues, aligning with community priorities. The program strengthens campus-community ties and gives educational partners (e.g. teachers, directors of local nonprofits) more influence in campus activities.

Important Dates:

- Applications Open: **2/9/26**
- Deadline: **3/6/26**
- Announcement: April 2026
- Fellowship: Fall/Spring 2026-2027 (starts Summer 2026)

Faculty Fellow Benefits:

- Up to \$6,500 in community-engaged research funding
- Support from the Office of Public Engagement (Emily Stone)
- Support from the cohort of public engagement fellows



Responsibilities:

- Conduct a community-engaged research study during academic year 2026-27.
- Collaborate with community co-researchers on research design and implementation.
- Attend monthly cohort sessions, including project-level and College-level discussion about public engagement.
- Connect community partners to University of Illinois resources, when possible.
- Attend final celebration to showcase research activities.
- In addition to their own research and teaching projects, Public Engagement Fellows will work on a college-level project.
 - Example of college-level projects include developing a proposal for coordinating faculty professional development with local schools, synthesizing COE-wide public engagement data, and development of community-engaged research training for graduate students.

Application Info:

- Open to full-time College of Education faculty.
- Applicants should be prepared to provide the following materials:
- Previous Public Engagement Fellows are invited to apply to this cohort.
 - Brief statement of interest in the fellowship (max. 300 words).
 - Brief description of the proposed community-engaged research project. (max. 500 words) Please describe specifically how the project idea was created and any input received from community partners.
- A proposed budget of up to \$6,500 using the budget template.

Funding Details:

Fellows will receive research funding of \$6,500 to support their community-engaged research work. Up to \$3000 gross salary may be used towards summer salary.

Funds may be used to support:

- Personnel, including summer salaries, undergraduate and graduate student hourly wages.
 - All personnel expenses will incur fringe benefits based on appointment type. Indirect costs (F&A) will not be assessed.
- Research expenses, including materials and supplies, participant incentives, data access expenses, programming costs, meeting expenses and travel, costs for community organizations to supply data, etc.
- Honoraria and stipends for community partner participation.

Funds can be used from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.



Applicant Evaluation Criteria:

Strength of applicant

1. Fit: *Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to community-engaged research?*

Strength of project

2. Community impact: *How does the proposed project benefit the community with whom it is being conducted? How will success be determined?*
3. Strength of community-academic collaboration: *Does this project represent a positive and authentic reciprocal collaboration between academic and community partners? Did the project arise from a community need?*
4. Sustainability: *how will the activities described in this application be continued after the grant period?*

Teaching Fellows

Overview

This cohort-based program enhances community-engaged learning courses in the College of Education. Faculty fellows will work closely with educational partners to modify existing courses to better address social and civic issues, aligning with community priorities. The program strengthens campus-community ties and gives educational partners (e.g. teachers, directors of local nonprofits) more influence and agency in campus activities.

Responsibilities:

- Modify an existing course for academic year 2026-27 to include community-engaged learning.
- Collaborate with community co-educators on course design and success metrics.
- Attend monthly cohort sessions, including project-level and College-level discussion about public engagement.
- Connect community partners to University of Illinois resources, when possible.
- Attend final celebration to showcase teaching activities.
- Example of college-level projects include developing a proposal for coordinating faculty professional development with local schools, synthesizing COE-wide public engagement data, and development of community-engaged research training for graduate students.
 - Example of college-level projects include developing a proposal for coordinating faculty professional development with local schools, synthesizing COE-wide public engagement data, and development of community-engaged research training for graduate students.



Application Info:

- Open to full-time College of Education faculty.
- You do not need to identify the community co-educator prior to submitting your application. The program can facilitate pairing with community partners.
- Previous Public Engagement Fellows are invited to apply to this cohort.
- Applicants should be prepared to provide the following materials:
 - Brief statement of interest in the fellowship (max. 300 words)
 - Brief description of their proposed course and community-engaged teaching project (max. 500 words) Please describe specifically how the course idea was created and any input received from community partners.
- A proposed budget of up to \$6,500 using the budget template.

Funding details:

Fellows will receive funding of \$6,500 to support their community-engaged learning work. Up to \$3000 gross salary may be used towards summer salary. Funds may be used to support:

- Personnel including summer salaries, undergraduate and graduate student hourly wages.
 - All personnel expenses will incur fringe benefits based on appointment type. Indirect costs (F&A) will not be assessed.
- Teaching and learning expenses, including materials and supplies, participant incentives, data access expenses, programming costs, meeting expenses and travel, costs for community organizations to supply data.
- Honoraria and stipends for community partner participation.

Funds can be used from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

Applicant Evaluation Criteria:

Strength of applicant

1. Fit: *Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to community-engaged teaching?*

Strength of project

2. Community impact: *How does the proposed project benefit the community with whom it is being conducted? How will success be determined?*
3. Strength of community-academic collaboration: *Can the proposed project be a reciprocal collaboration between academic and community partners?*
4. Sustainability: *how will the activities described in this application be continued after the grant period?*