

On behalf of the Committee on Fellowships, I am pleased to be able to offer you information about the exciting opportunity to apply for one of the Vassar nominations for the Compton Foundation Mentor Fellowship Program. Vassar has been selected as one of ten schools to participate in this most interesting and creative fellowship program.

“The Compton Mentor Fellowship Program

welcomes innovative projects that encompass elements of the Foundation’s traditional funding interests in environment and sustainability, peace and conflict resolution, or population and reproductive health. Recently, the Foundation expanded their fellowship interests to include a focus on climate change and energy policy. Proposed Fellowship projects should reflect a candidate's genuine interest in, and commitment to, a specific concern. In sum, the project should be personally meaningful and of significant social merit.” **(from the 2008 application materials)**

Vassar may nominate two graduating seniors to the Compton Foundation. From an applicant pool of no more than 20, the Foundation will select up to 10 Fellows. The Vassar Committee on Fellowships will select the two Vassar nominees. An interview may be required at the campus level for the short-list of applicants; an interview with the Foundation will be mandatory for the final nominees.

For more information contact:

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Email: Likooperman@vassar.edu

Deadlines: All materials must be submitted to fellowships@vassar.edu by **Monday, February 6, 2009**: Campus deadline for completed applications including letters of recommendation and documentation from potential mentor. This deadline is FIRM!

Notification of Campus Selection: Early March. Deadline to submit Vassar nominee applications to Compton Foundation: March, 19, 2009. Mandatory interviews for the nominees will be held in California on April 19-21. Fellowship winners will be notified by April 24th and must begin their fellowship by July 15th.

Getting Started:

1. **Read** the application carefully to gain an understanding of the focus of the Mentor Fellowship and the requirements for application. Does this fit with your interests and experiences? Do you have some initial ideas with regard to people you might like to have as a mentor for a year? Are your ideas feasible and worth pursuing?

2. **Consult** the Compton website at: <http://www.comptonfoundation.org> and learn what you can about the Foundation and its mission and goals. Is there a match with your interests?

3. **Find** a Vassar faculty member who knows something about the area you are proposing to work in. This faculty member should be someone who knows you and your interests

and may be willing to spend some time with you as you work through the details of this fellowship. This person will probably be one of your 2 recommenders.

4. **Consult** faculty and administrators whose interests are related to yours. They may be able to suggest people in the broader community to speak with or at least set you on a trail that would lead to a possible mentor. Dig deep and consider people who are actively involved in your field of interest, perhaps someone you have met at an internship or fieldwork experience, someone who has lectured at Vassar, a person from a summer work experience, someone whose work you have read, etc. You may wish to use the resources of the Career Development office, particularly the V-NET Advisory File to get in touch with Vassar alums who may be working in the field you are interested in. They could possibly be your mentor or point you in the direction of someone who could fill this role.

5. **Review** the list of grantees on the Compton Foundation website; we may be able to facilitate a conversation for you. Please let Ms. Kooperman know if you would like to establish a contact through the foundation. Obviously, your project will be shaped largely by your discussions with your mentor regarding the possibilities and parameters of this year-long assignment; however, you should be prepared to discuss your specific interests, experiences, talents, and **project ideas** with any potential mentor you identify.

6. **Develop** your resume and a short description of the Compton Mentor Fellowship that accurately reflects what would be required of the mentor. This should include the attached mentor form and information about the Compton Foundation. Be certain to inform your potential mentor that this is only an application and not a commitment on your part (should you be selected, the mentor would be expected to honor his or her commitment, as would you!). In addition to the form, a fuller letter should be submitted from your potential mentor.

7. **Do** some preliminary planning and thinking about this and then feel welcome to visit the Office for Fellowships to speak with me about any questions or concerns you might have. Please note that seven Vassar students have received this fellowship to date. Their applications are available for review in the office.

8. **I would be happy to speak with you about your interests and to offer you support and advice. Note: Selection of the Vassar nominees will be made by the members of the Vassar Faculty Committee on Fellowships.**



I see no comparable fellowship opportunity, nothing that gives so much freedom and trust and simultaneously demands so much growth and commitment – Caroline Loomis, Fellow 2002

Compton Foundation Mentor Fellowship Overview

About the Compton Foundation

In a world that is increasingly interrelated, the Compton Foundation seeks to foster human and ecological security by addressing contemporary threats to these inalienable rights. The Foundation supports responsible stewardship that respects the rights of future generations to a balanced and healthy ecology, both personal and global, allowing for the full richness of human experience. The Foundation envisions a world in which humans live in harmony with each other, and in sustainable balance with the earth.

Mentor Fellowship Program Overview

The Compton Foundation created the Mentor Fellowship Program to promote the creativity and support the commitment of graduating seniors as they move beyond academic focus to prepare them for their contributions in the 'real world'. The Fellowship is intended to be for one year (with a stipend of \$36,000), beginning and ending at the annual mid-June gathering of Fellows held in the San Francisco area.

The Compton Mentor Fellowship Program is based on the belief that life-changing experiences occur when formal learning becomes transformed by action. Such complementary learning helps one see – and appreciate – the larger world through different eyes and a broadened perspective. In a sense, each Fellow co-creates the program: the pragmatic, self-directed nature of the Fellowship experience is meant to deepen and enrich knowledge, and guide Fellows to apply new understanding of themselves and the world in original ways.

The Compton Mentor Fellowship Program welcomes innovative projects that encompass elements of the Foundation's traditional funding interests in environment and sustainability, peace and conflict resolution, or population and reproductive health. Recently, the Foundation expanded their fellowship interests to include a focus on climate change and energy policy. Proposed Fellowship projects should reflect a candidate's genuine interest in, and commitment to, a specific concern. In sum, the project should be personally meaningful and of significant social merit.

In selecting Compton Fellows, the Foundation seeks individuals who demonstrate imagination, intelligence, integrity, and leadership. Fellows are self-starters, who show promise of creative achievement, and a commitment to compassionate and effective participation in the world community. A candidate's academic record, while not of primary importance, is also considered, along with extracurricular activities that reflect both initiative and dedication. The Foundation seeks



individuals who strive to be thoughtful agents of change, and find the task of charting their own learning paths exciting rather than confounding.

The Mentor and Fellow Partnership

At the core of the Fellowship is a partnership between a Fellow and a primary Mentor who will be identified by the Fellowship candidate during the application process. The Mentor should be a source of guidance, encouragement, and impetus for continued learning and service. Ideally, a Mentor shares common interests and goals with the Fellow, and is willing to help transform academic studies into real world applications.

A Mentor should be willing to monitor a Fellow's progress toward mutually agreed upon goals. Although the Fellow identifies and works with one primary Mentor, other individuals may play important roles in the Fellowship experience.

The candidate's ability to identify and establish a partnership with a Mentor is a critical factor in determining the potential for a successful Fellowship year. The participating academic institution may provide guidance in the Mentor selection process, although it is understood that faculty (adjunct, part-time, or permanent) may not serve as Mentors. A stipend (not to exceed \$5,000) from the \$36,000 Fellowship award will be used as an honorarium for the Mentor or an organization of the Mentor's choosing. In recruiting and selecting a Mentor, applicants are encouraged to lead with their project idea and commitment rather than the stipend.

Academic Institution Involvement

Following Compton criteria, each academic institution creates an internal, multidisciplinary nomination and review process. After preliminary interviews, up to two Fellowship applications are advanced to the Compton Selection Committee for final selection.

Eligibility Criteria

- Current BA, BFA or BS candidate from a partnering academic institution with an interest in the Compton Foundation's funding priorities
- "Traditional age" graduating senior
- U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident holding I-551 immigration status



Application, Nomination and Selection Process

- Fellowship candidates submit application to the academic institution, due date determined by each institution.
- Fellowship candidate secures two letters of reference (at least one should comment on your non-academic experiences and skills) to include with the application packet.
- Participating institutions review applications, interview applicants, and advance up to two candidates to the Compton Selection Committee for consideration. Complete application packets need to be received at the Compton Fellowship Coordinator's office by March 19, 2009.
- The Compton Foundation will bring all candidates to San Francisco for interviews on Tuesday, April 21, 2009. Other events are scheduled for Sunday evening, April 19th and Monday the 20th.
- Fellowship winners will be notified by April 24th and must be able to begin the fellowship by July 15th at the latest.
- The 2008 Mentor Fellows orientation will take place in June (date to be announced) in San Francisco area
- Academic institution contacts have copies of Mentor Fellowship project profiles from previous years for review, or visit the Compton Mentor Fellowship website at www.comptonmentorfellowship.org.

Participating Academic Institutions

Berea College

Clark University

Furman University

Lewis and Clark College

Middlebury College

Morehouse College

Oberlin College

Princeton University

Tufts University

Vassar College



Compton Foundation Mentor Fellowship 2009 Application

Candidate Background (Please attach additional sheets as needed)

Academic Institution: _____

Candidate: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (daytime) _____ (evening) _____

Email: _____

Degree at Graduation and Area of Specialization:

Mentor Fellowship Plan

- Provide a detailed description of your plans for the Compton Mentor Fellowship, including a preliminary budget (See the accompanying worksheet)
- Provide proposed Mentor's name, affiliation and contact information
- Describe why you have identified this person as a primary Mentor
- Attach a copy of the Mentor's curriculum vita or resume
- Attach a letter from the proposed Mentor indicating a willingness to serve, and the degree and type of involvement he or she will provide. (See the accompanying sample)

Candidate Essay Responses

- Describe previous leadership and community service experiences:
- Describe personal and professional values, principles and experiences that have drawn you to create the Compton Mentor Fellowship plan you envision?
- Explain what you hope to achieve over the course of the Mentor Fellowship?
- Evaluate the ways in which you anticipate the Compton Mentor Fellowship will contribute to shaping your early career?
- Provide two letters of reference (at least one that will comment on your activities beyond your academic pursuits)



Sample Budget Worksheet

Each Fellowship will have individual budget requirements. Use this worksheet as a guide only for anticipated expenses.

1. *Living expenses*

- a. Housing
- b. Food
- c. Communications (phone, fax, internet)
- d. Local transportation
- e. Insurance
- f. Other (specify)

2. *Mentor Honorarium/Reimbursement (\$5,000)*

3. *Travel*

- a. Lodging
- b. Airfare
- c. Ground transportation

4. *Research*

- a. Conference registration
- b. Books, journals, etc.

5. *Equipment, materials and supplies*

6. *Other*

- a. Taxes (yes, fellowships are considered income)



Sample Mentor/Fellow Agreement

The following is provided as a guideline. Any signed document that outlines the roles and responsibilities with your mentor will be accepted.

The following roles and responsibilities define the partnership between a Compton Fellow and Mentor. This agreement represents a commitment to work together with respect, candor, creativity and support.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Compton Fellow

- Describe your goals and specific requests to the Mentor, and take initiative in seeking guidance, advice, and resources
- Keep the Mentor apprised of career development, plans, and activities
- Send copies of all Compton Reports to your Mentor
- Attend annual Compton Fellowship meeting
- Make every effort to follow through on commitments to your Mentor
- Participate fully in the Fellowship program

Roles and Responsibilities of the Compton Mentor

- Provide insight and guidance to the Fellow
- Share resources, contacts, and other opportunities to help the Fellow achieve goals
- Review and respond to the Fellow's Compton Reports
- Make every effort to follow through on commitments to the Fellow

We agree to communicate regularly, at least:

Weekly Bi-weekly Monthly Other

We have reviewed the information provided about the Compton Mentor Fellowship, and are ready to chart our course and begin our new partnership. We enter this agreement in good faith, with full understanding of our roles and responsibilities for participation in the Compton Mentor Fellowship 2009.

Signed:

Fellow

Date

Mentor

Date



Application Checklist

The Fellowship application should include the following components:

1. Candidate Information

- a. Background information
- b. Essay responses
- c. Mentor Fellowship plan, including preliminary budget
- d. Two letters of recommendation (at least one that will comment on your activities beyond your academic pursuits)

2. Mentor Information

- a. Background information and rationale for your choice
- b. Curriculum Vita or resume of proposed mentor
- c. Letter of willingness to serve during the Fellowship year (see sample)

3. Budget (up to \$35,000) an additional \$1,000 is given to be used for transport to Fellowship orientation and post-fellowship gathering

- a. Stipend for living expenses
- b. Mentor honorarium (not to exceed \$5,000) negotiated by applicant
- c. Travel and research expenses
- d. Equipment, materials and supplies
- e. Other related expenses