

Robinson Child and Family Resilience Post-Baccalaureate Fellow

We are now inviting applications from current seniors for the position of Robinson Child and Family Resilience Post-Baccalaureate Fellow. This one-year post-baccalaureate paid fellowship is open to all seniors from any major with relevant skills and interests. The position can begin full-time in mid-May 2015 and run through June 2016, with exact start and end dates negotiable. A full description of the fellowship can be found below. **Applications should be submitted via TigerNet (Sewanee's database of jobs and internships) by March 10, 2015.**

Previous Child and Family Resilience Fellows:

2012-2013: Katharine Freeman ('12, Major: Anthropology)

2013-2014: Taylor Stavely ('13, Major: Biology)

2014-2015: Sarah Brown ('14, Major: Biochemistry)

One student will be chosen each year for this fellowship through the application process that requires a resume, transcript, personal statement, and at least two letters of recommendation.

Description of the Fellowship

This post-baccalaureate fellowship focuses broadly on fostering resilience in children, families, and communities, with an emphasis on (a) participating in programs to foster social connectedness and resilience, in particular the Discover Together Family Co-op, Camp Discover, and the Discover Learning Lab, and (b) a secondary project related to early childhood and to the successful candidate's interests. Expected allocation of time and energy to these two efforts is anticipated to be approximately ½ time to each of (a) and (b), but may be adjusted based on the candidate's interests and skills. This fellowship will provide excellent experience for students who have interests in child and parent development, health, education, resilience, social connectedness, and community-building. The fellow will join an innovative collaborative team that includes faculty from both Sewanee and Yale University, Scholastic publishers, and local community partners,

(a) Social Connectedness and Resilience—Discover Together: Discover Together Family Co-op, Discover Learning Lab, and Camp Discover

Discover Together currently encompasses three inter-related components. The Discover Together Family Co-op is a literacy-based program for children ages 6 weeks to 5 yrs. and their family caregivers. Meeting twice a week, family caregivers and children participate in child-focused, literacy-based activities aimed at promoting social competence and connectedness and adult-focused activities promoting knowledge of child development and development of social support. Discover Together currently has one site at the Tracy City Methodist Church with expansion to a second site under consideration. Camp Discover is a two-week summer camp for children in grades 1 – 6 that aims to foster resilience by helping children to connect with the people and places in their own local community. For the past two years, the camp has been based at Tracy City Elementary School, with likely expansion to include more children and additional sites. The Discover Learning Lab brings children in grades 4-6 and their families together with teachers, University students, and other community volunteers around school projects in a setting with ample supplies and volunteers with knowledge of the projects who can support students and families as they work together. The Discover Together Collaborative is a

developing partnership among the Yale Child Study Center, Scholastic, Sewanee: The University of the South, and local school representatives, early childhood leaders, pediatricians and community members.

Working closely with the rest of the Discover Together staff, the individual in this position will:

- Meet regularly with the local Discover Together team for program development, planning, and review; participate in collaborative conference calls with partners
- Work with the Discover Together team to develop program activities around key themes and messages
- Be actively present at all Discover Together sessions, helping to implement program activities and with specific responsibilities to be determined
- Maintain strict confidentiality about participating children and families
- Discuss any concerns or uncertainties about participating children or families as soon as possible
- Help to organize and implement program-related data gathering and assessment
- Familiarize local families with Discover Together and encourage participation
- Help to maintain communication with Discover Together families
- Help to transport families to program activities as needed
- Help to communicate about the programs to local media, funding sources, and the community at large
- Maintain regular communication with collaborative partners, including weekly written communication that reviews the past week, anticipates needs or issues for upcoming weeks, reflects on experiences, and solicits feedback
- Help with program management via project management tools such as Base Camp, thus acquiring skills with such tools and project management more generally
- Become familiar with developmentally appropriate practices of NAEYC and early childhood milestones
- Become familiar with research literature on resilience, social and emotional development, and other program-relevant issues
- Read local papers, including the Sewanee Messenger, the Grundy Herald, and Nashville and Chattanooga papers to stay familiar with current issues affecting children, families, and communities
- Identify and attend local Health Council meetings, other relevant community meetings, and relevant conferences (e.g., NAEYC conference, state TAEYC and regional conferences)
- Seek out, develop, and maintain relationships with other efforts aimed at young children and families of young children

As time permits,

- Gather and organize information on local resources for families of young children
- Work with partners and Discover Together team to explore other Discover Together sites and other community-based initiatives
- Help to organize and implement a community needs assessment to help in planning for other sites and other related initiatives

(b) Project related to early childhood aligning with the candidate's interests. Possibilities include but are not limited to:

- Discover Together—Program Assessment and Development
- Health—Mapping Maternal and Child Health Care Services
- Enhancing Social Connectedness through Family and Community Narratives (could be visual/photographic and/or verbal)
- Building Social Connectedness and Community through Music
- Understanding and Reducing Pre-Natal and Maternal Smoking: Framing, Resources, and Implementation
- Fostering Literacy—Developing Resources and Support in the Home and Community
- Understanding and Framing Local Rural Issues

Preferred Qualifications and Dispositions

- B.A. or B.S. in psychology, health-related, or otherwise-related field
- interest in child development, health and well-being, family and community development, community engagement, and project management
- previous experience working with children and families
- previous volunteer experience or community involvement
- flexibility in work hours, with program needs taking priority in determining daily start and end hours and vacation times
- initiative in all areas of responsibility
- strong and effective written and oral communication skills
- ability to work well with a diverse collaborative team, including the local Discover Together team, various community partners, faculty at Yale and Sewanee, and leaders at Scholastic, Inc.
- willingness to ask for support, assistance, and guidance as needed

Application Materials

- 1) A current resume
- 2) Two recommendation letters, at least one of which should come from a faculty member in a related discipline. Please make your request to recommenders AT LEAST two weeks in advance of the application deadline, and ask that the letters be e-mailed to Judy Dudley in the Career & Leadership Development Office at jdudley@sewanee.edu.
- 3) Official transcript (request one from the University Registrar)
- 4) Personal statement: Please discuss your interest in the Child and Family Resilience Post-Baccalaureate Fellowship, in terms of both your personal and professional interests and the qualifications and skills you will both bring to and gain from the position. In your statement, please be sure to describe in as much detail any secondary project(s) you might already envision and how those align with your interests and skills.

Step-by-step instructions to apply for the Robinson Child and Family Resilience Post-Baccalaureate Fellowship:

- 1) Read the application requirements before uploading your documents

- 2) Please make your requests for recommendation letters AT LEAST two weeks in advance of the application deadline, and ask that the letters be e-mailed to Judy Dudley in the Career & Leadership Development Office at jdudley@sewanee.edu
- 3) Sign on to TigerNet on the Career & Leadership Development website (www.careers.sewanee.edu), under Toolbox
- 4) Upload your resume, your cover letter, your personal statement, and your official transcript (scanned into a PDF- please make sure you scan it in black & white, not color; color scans will cause the file size to be too large to upload to TigerNet.)
- 4) Now it is time to apply! Click on Jobs/Internships, then search with the keywords Child and Family Resilience.
- 5) Select all the needed documents, minus the recommendation letters.
- 8) Click Submit. You are done!

Remember, all application components must be received on TigerNet by midnight of the deadline. The recommendation letters must be received at Career & Leadership Development by 5:00 p.m. of the deadline. No late or incomplete applications will be considered.

If you have any questions or problems with the application process, please contact Career & Leadership Development at x1121.

If you have any questions about the position itself, please contact Karen Yu at kyu@sewanee.edu or Linda Mayes at linda.mayes@yale.edu.