Bridget and James Coffing Fund for Family Advocacy

Description

The Bridget and James Coffing Fund for Family Advocacy is intended to provide support for the people, programs, and initiatives in the School of Human Ecology (SoHE) that make life better for individuals and families. The Coffing Fund aims to help address social injustices and inequities with the goal of fostering diversity, equity, and inclusiveness. Toward this goal, these funds will support the summertime scholarship and professional development of SoHE graduate students from underrepresented groups. These funds also support the research, outreach, and creative work of SoHE graduate students throughout the academic year and/or summertime that is focused on ameliorating social injustices and/or enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

The award provides up to $2,000. Funds are merit-based and awarded once a year on a competitive basis. SoHE graduate students can apply to one or both of the funding areas described below. Students can apply for these funds in multiple years; however, priority is given to students who have not previously received SoHE STAR funds or Coffin funds.

Funding Areas:

1. Summertime scholarship and professional development of SoHE graduate students from underrepresented groups

Eligibility
- SoHE MS, MFA, or PhD graduate student in good academic standing and making satisfactory progress
- Students who participated in a Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program; OR
- Students from the following racial/ethnic groups: a) African American or Black; b) American Indian or Alaskan Native; c) Hispanic/Latino; d) Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian, or Hmong; e) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; OR
- Economically disadvantaged students who are: a) first-generation college students who participated in one of the following TRIO programs: Upward Bound, Talent Search, Educational Opportunities Centers, or Student Support Services; b) first-generation college students who graduated from the PEOPLE Program; or c) UW–Madison bachelor’s degree recipients who were in the FASTrack or BANNER programs OR
- From another socially disadvantaged group. If students are apply under this criterion, the will need to clarify what the disadvantaged group.
- Priority will be given to students who have not yet received SoHE STAR funds or Bridget Coffin funds.

2. Research, outreach, and creative work by SoHE graduate students throughout the academic year or summer focused on ameliorating social injustices and enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Eligibility
- SoHE MS, MFA, or PhD graduate student in good academic standing and making satisfactory progress
- Priority will be given to students who have not yet received SoHE STAR funds or Coffing funds.
Application materials (for funding area # 1 and 2)

1. Description of scholarship (research, outreach, or creative work) or professional development to be conducted (no more than two pages).
2. For funding area 2 only, state the purpose, methods/approach, and significance of project as it relates to ameliorating social injustices and increasing diversity, equity, and inclusivity.
3. Clarify how the activities relate to the student’s progress in the program and career goals, including how s/he may use the award as a stepping stone to future research/creative scholarly endeavors.
4. Address how faculty or expert mentors will provide mentorship on the activities.
5. Budget page and justification of student time and/or expenditures needed in order to complete the proposed scholarship or professional development.
6. Timeline for completing the activities (timeline for funding area # 1 can range from May-August; timeline for funding area # 2 can be up to 12 months)
7. Curriculum vitae—one page maximum, including cumulative GPA
8. A confidential letter from the faculty advisor* regarding the merits of the student’s proposal, including a statement on how the student’s project will be completed in a timely manner

Review Criteria (for funding area # 1 and 2)

Applications will be evaluated and ranked by the SoHE Graduate Program Committee (GPC) according to the following criteria:

1. Overall quality and clarity of proposal for the scholarship or professional development.
2. For funding area # 2 only, the purpose, methods/approach, and significance of the project as it relates to ameliorating social injustices and increasing diversity, equity, and inclusivity.
3. Clear case made for the relevance of the activities to the student’s scholarly and professional training and progress in the program;
4. Student’s academic record (GPA and other indicators of academic and professional achievement)
5. Appropriateness of the proposed budget and timeline
6. Confidential letter of support from the student’s faculty advisor*

Applications will open on February 15. Applications are due by March 15. Materials should be submitted via the Wisconsin Scholarship Hub: https://wisc.academicworks.com/users/sign_in

*Advisors submitting recommendations for more than one student should make clear distinctions between students regarding the merits of each individual’s work. Students whose project is mentored by an expert outside of the School should request a letter of support from that individual and a letter of approval from the student’s Department Chair. Confidential letters must be delivered/emailed directly to the Graduate Program Coordinator.