**The Diversity Scholars Leadership Program**

*Funded by the* ***Center of Excellence in Maternal & Child Health***

**Background**

The Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health (MCH COE) at BUSPH recognizes that there is a need for increasing the diversity of the public health professional workforce. The *Diversity Scholars Leadership Program* (DSLP) is designed to support future health professionals of color who want to contribute as scholars and leaders in the fight for social justice and health equity. Our aim is to create an environment in which underrepresented minority students, can flourish and be connected to the knowledge, wisdom, and experience of a strong network of peers and alumnae who precede them as MCH leaders.

Faculty and students in the DSLP have engaged together in this effort since 2010, with support from a training grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. The program has grown and strengthened; each amazing cohort of students has amassed knowledge and skills and enriched the MCH experience for other students and for faculty. It is not a perfect remedy for racial and social justice in public health education—but it is a significant start.

**Recognizing first generation college graduates**

The MCH COE at BUSPH recognizes the unique challenges often faced by students who are the first in their immediate family to attend a four-year college. Students from a first generation background bring great value to the classroom, but are often challenged by family obligations and limited finances. They may sometimes have difficulty communicating the realities of graduate school demands to family members and the realities of their own circumstances to students with more substantial resources. First generation status will be a key criterion we consider in the selection process.

**What does the Diversity Scholars Leadership Program entail?**

The *Diversity Scholars Leadership Program* (DSLP) offers alumni mentoring, financial support, and community building for MPH students from underrepresented minority communities who are enrolled in the Maternal & Child Health certificate.

***For the purpose of our grant, under-represented minorities groups are: American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Latinx, South Asian or Southeast Asian.***

* ***Tuition Support*** Diversity Leadership Scholars will be awarded a scholarship from the MCH COE for up to 8 tuition credits (distributed as 4 credits per year). According to BUSPH guidelines your combined total scholarships cannot exceed the school’s cost of attendance. The funding source for the DSLP is our Maternal & Child Health Center of Excellence grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of HRSA\*.
* ***Mentoring*** Each scholar will be assigned a “field mentor” to support their growth as an emerging MCH leader. Our field mentors are all people of color who hold an MCH-related leadership position in the Boston area (or sometimes in other locations). Many of our mentors are graduates of the BUSPH MCH program. The mentor and scholar will meet once a month (or more if desired) and build a relationship that can be valuable to both people, and particularly to students as you navigate professional education in a largely white institution and learn to combine your new technical skills with leadership confidence and readiness.
* ***Community Building at BUSPH*** The DSLP supports students and mentors to build relationships with one another and with other students of color at BUSPH. This can occur organically as well as through planned social gatherings, monthly ‘racial justice talking circles’, field trips, and group mentoring events.
* *\*Please note: Due to our funding source, we must limit DSLP eligibility to US citizens, nationals, or permanent residents.*

MCH Diversity Scholars Leadership Program & MPH Timelines

Diversity Scholars have two options regarding the length of their MPH program and DSLP participation. While it is possible to complete the MPH program in 16 months (3 regular semesters plus summer), past Scholars have found benefit in planning to complete the program over 21 months (4 regular semesters plus summer). In both scenarios, Diversity Scholars are usually awarded 4 tuition scholarship credits in both their first and second years (up to 8 credits total).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1st Fall** | **1st Spring** | **Summer** | **2nd Fall** | **2nd Spring*****Optional*** |
| ***16 MONTHS*** | ***MPH*** | 1st Semester (Fulltime) | 2nd Semester(Fulltime) | Practicum and/or Summer Course(s) | 3rd Semester (Fulltime)**GRADUATE** |  |
|  | ***DSLP*** | - Apply to DSLP- New scholars attend Welcome Event, meet Mentors | - 4-cr Scholarship- Mentoring- DSLP Group Sessions | Mentoring | - 4-cr Scholarship- Mentoring- DSLP Group Sessions | *If local, may continue:**- Mentoring**- DSLP Group Sessions* |
| ***21 MONTHS*** | ***MPH*** | 1st Semester (Full or Part Time) | 2nd Semester(Full or Part Time) | Practicum and/or Summer Course(s) | 3rd Semester (Full or Part Time) | 4th Semester (Full or Part Time)- May elect to enroll only for 0-credit *Integrative Learning Exp.* in final semester**GRADUATE** |
|  | ***DSLP*** | - Apply to DSLP- New scholars attend Welcome Event, meet Mentors | - 4-cr Scholarship- Mentoring- DSLP Group Sessions | Mentoring | - 4-cr Scholarship (*distributed as student wishes between Fall and Spring semesters*)- Mentoring- DSLP Group Sessions |

## The Application Process

If you are interested in applying to become a Diversity Leadership Scholar, please send the following materials to Alina Saleh at mchcoe@bu.edu:

1. Completed DSLP application
2. Current résumé or CV

The Directors of the program may request an interview with applicants.

**Application Deadline: Thursday, October 22, 2020 by 11:59pm**

*Thank you!*

******The Diversity Scholars Leadership Program**

*Funded by the* ***Center of Excellence in Maternal & Child Health***

Diversity Scholars Leadership Program Application

*Please send your responses to the following questions to Dr. McCloskey via* *mchcoe@bu.edu* *by Thursday, October 22nd 2020 by 11:59 pm.*

1. *Completed application*
2. *Current résumé/CV*

Note: Interviews may be requested.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full Name** |  |
| **Current Address** |  |
| **City** |  | **State** |   | **Zip Code** |  |
| **Email Address** |  |
| **Phone Number** |  |
| **Languages Spoken** |  |
| **MPH Certificates** |  |
| **Yes** [ ]  **No** [ ]  | **Are you a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident with an I-151, I-551, or I-551C card?** |
| **Yes** [ ]  **No** [ ]  | **Are you the first person in your immediate family to graduate from a 4-year college?** |
| **How do you identify yourself racially and/or ethnically?** |  |

**Please answer the following four questions (up to 150-200 words each). You may use the space below each question to provide your responses.**

1. **How would you describe the reasons that underlie health inequities across race, class, gender identity, and other groups in the U.S.?**
2. **In what ways has your personal background and your work experience to date (professional and volunteer) shaped your interest in making a contribution to the elimination of health inequities?**
3. **Please describe how participating in the DSLP would help you meet your goals in the MPH program. Include your thoughts about how an alumnae mentor may contribute to your growth and learning while at BUSPH.**
4. **Briefly describe a leadership challenge you have faced in your prior academic or professional life. How did you approach the challenge and what did you learn about yourself in the process? How do you want to take that learning forward while here at BUSPH?**