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

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## **2010 Compton 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 Mentor Fellowship program is based on the belief that life-changing experiences occur when formal learning becomes transformed by action. To this end, the Compton Mentor Fellowship offers exceptional graduating seniors an opportunity to apply their creative talents to the selection of a Mentor of their choice, and to the design of a program that seeks solutions to critical issues. The pragmatic, self-directed nature of the Compton Mentor 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 welcomes innovative project proposals that encompass elements of the Foundation's traditional funding interests in environmental sustainability, climate change and energy policy, population and reproductive health, or conflict resolution. Proposed projects should demonstrate exceptional social merit and positive contribution in the fields of interest.

In selecting Compton Mentor Fellows, the Foundation seeks individuals who demonstrate imagination, intelligence, integrity, and leadership. Compton Mentor 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.

Upon selection, Compton Mentor Fellows receive a \$36,000 stipend to implement their project over a one-year period, beginning and ending at an annual mid-June gathering of Fellows held in the San Francisco Bay Area.

## *The Mentor and Fellow Partnership*

At the core of the Compton Mentor Fellowship is a partnership between a Fellow and a primary Mentor, identified by the Fellowship candidate during the application process. The Mentor should be accessible and 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 able 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 faculty and staff (adjunct, part-time, or permanent) may not serve as Mentors. A stipend (\$5,000) from the \$36,000 Fellowship award is used as an honorarium for the Mentor or 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*

Employing Compton Mentor Fellowship program criteria, each academic institution creates an internal, multidisciplinary nomination and review process. At the conclusion of this process, schools advance their top candidate to the Mentor Fellowship Selection Committee for final consideration.

## *Eligibility Criteria*

- Current BA, BFA or BS candidates from a partnering academic institution with an interest in the Compton Foundation's funding priorities (Candidates must be on track to graduate in the Spring of 2010.)
- "Traditional age" graduating senior
- U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident holding I-551 immigration status

## *Application, Nomination and Selection Process*

- Campus Liaisons will be provided with successful Mentor Fellowship applications and mentor agreements from previous years for review and to share with prospective candidates.
- 2009-2010 Compton Mentor Fellowship candidates submit an application to the Campus Liaison at their academic institution and complete any application procedures required by the school.
- Participating institutions review applications, interview candidates, and advance their top nominee to the Mentor Fellowship Selection Committee for final consideration. The Mentor Fellowship Coordinator must receive complete application packets for nominated candidates by **March 12, 2010**.
- The Compton Foundation brings all candidates to San Francisco for interviews during the third weekend in April. Interview dates and schedule to follow.
- All applicants will be notified by April 26<sup>th</sup> and must be able to begin the fellowship by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The 2010 Compton Mentor Fellowship orientation will take place in mid-June in San Francisco.
- To learn more about the Compton Mentor Fellowship visit [www.comptonmentorfellowship.org](http://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