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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, Fellow 2002*

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## Compton Foundation Mentor Fellowship Overview

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### 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 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Fellowship winners will be notified by April 24<sup>th</sup> and must be able to begin the fellowship by July 15<sup>th</sup> 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](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**

**Tuft's University**

**Vassar College**