

# LEAD Impact Group Summer Fellowship Program

The EdFunders Learning, Evaluation, and Data Impact Group (LEAD), in partnership with the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE), is pleased to share that it will again offer the Summer Research Fellows Program. The program's purpose is to provide members with the opportunity to have a research question answered by an educational researcher. Check out last year's projects [here](#).

In its fourth year, the program provides the opportunity for EdFunders members ("the clients") to be matched with a graduate student summer fellow. The summer fellow (a current doctoral student, supervised by a university faculty member) will:

- Spend 320-400 hours (equivalent of 8-10 weeks) during June-September (exact dates TBD by client and fellow) reviewing the literature on the client's project, synthesizing the material, and preparing deliverables.
- Engage by video conference with the client at least three times during the fellowship to refine the project parameters, check in to receive feedback, and present the findings.
- Provide the client with a research plan at the beginning of the project.
- Provide the client with a literature review (approximately 20 pages in length).
- Write an executive brief (1-2 pages) summarizing the main takeaways for a philanthropic audience.
- Present, potentially in conjunction with the EdFunders client, at EdFunders and SREE's annual conference on the final research findings.

The EdFunders member will also have the opportunity to participate in the fellow interview process if they desire, as well as sessions at the EdFunders's 2022 Annual Conference and/or the SREE 2022 Annual Conference.

## MEMBER INTEREST FORM FOR GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOW

To be considered for a Summer Fellow this year, **please complete [this survey](#)** by 11:59 pm Pacific Time on April 6.

The goal is to have Fellows selected by the end of May 2022.

## ADDITIONAL PROGRAM DETAILS

The EdFunders LEAD Impact Group is bringing this opportunity to members and is subsidizing the costs of the summer fellows by paying all administrative costs associated with the program delivery.

In exchange, the EdFunders member agrees to meet with the fellow at least three times over the course of the summer (launch, mid-point discussion, and final presentation of literature review), offer feedback to the fellow, and provide \$12,000 to SREE to cover direct costs of the fellow. This fee covers fellow's time on the client's project, as well as attendance and travel to the EdFunders and/or SREE annual conferences.

The criteria that will be used to determine whether a EdFunders member can participate in the program are the EdFunders member's willingness to pay, feasibility of proposed research, fellow interest in the proposed research topic, and the ability to match with a qualified student.

The fellow review and selection process will be managed primarily by a member subcommittee of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness.

## EXAMPLE SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

A K-12 funder, who has traditionally focused on teaching and learning, is considering an expansion into college access. Before committing its resources, the funder wants to understand better the current trends and barriers in college access, as well as promising and proven solutions to increase college access, especially among underserved populations. The funder has done no research on the topic but generally follows news about college access. Key questions: At what rate do students of color attend college immediately after high school? How does this compare to their white counterparts? What stops these students from matriculating in college? What works to increase college access for this population? Answers to these questions will help the funder decide whether and how to expand into college access.

After an initial conversation with the funder to understand better her interests, the Summer Fellow prepares a research plan, conducts a review of existing literature, produces a literature review, and customizes a 1-2 page brief that highlights the main takeaways most relevant for the funder audience. The fellow presents this work in a final meeting at the end of the summer, as well as at the EdFunders and SREE annual conferences.

## CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Should you have any questions or comments, please email Jenn Kush at [jkush@sree.org](mailto:jkush@sree.org) and/or Nicole Ifill at [nicole.ifill@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:nicole.ifill@gatesfoundation.org).

## ABOUT THE LEAD IMPACT GROUP

The Grantmakers for Education Learning, Evaluation, and Data Impact Group's mission is to support EdFunders members to use data, research and evaluation to improve philanthropic practice, policies and strategies. EdFunders envisions that the impact groups allow "[individuals with common interests \[to\] share innovations and collaborate toward collective action.](#)" Current LEAD fellowship subcommittee members include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Helios Education Foundation, KnowledgeWorks, Ascendium Education Philanthropy, Trellis Foundation, and Lumina Foundation. To learn more or [to join the LEAD Impact Group](#), please find more information [here](#).

## ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR EDUCATION EFFECTIVENESS

The Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness's (SREE) mission is SREE is an interdisciplinary professional association dedicated to advancing the generation and use of effectiveness research to solve pressing challenges in education. The Society publishes the Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness (JREE) and holds an annual research conference. The Society also provides resources to advance research relevant to practice, from early childhood through the transition to higher and continuing education. These resources include a professional development video library and the Registry of Efficacy and Effectiveness Studies. To learn more, visit [www.sree.org](http://www.sree.org).

