Marie and Robert Jackson Fellows Program

In response to an anonymous gift to the College of St. Benedict, the Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement is pleased to offer up to nine student fellowships at $4,000 each for full-time summer civic engagement projects. While not required, students may elect to use a portion of this to pay for room and board on campus. Assistance is available based on individual situation and funding. Students will not be allowed to have any other paid employment during the ten weeks of the fellowship. The fellowship will relate to public policy and/or community service and will be hosted by an off-campus organization in Minnesota. All fellowships will involve civic engagement or work devoted to improving community life or the common good through political or non-political activities.

Eligible students will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in 2011-2012. Graduating seniors are not eligible. Students will work full-time beginning June 6, 2011 and continuing through August 12, 2011. Students may elect to earn credits and will have to pay for these and will be assessed on an individual basis. Prior to starting their fellowship, the Jackson Fellows must participate in a training seminar in May 2011. Twice per month, the Jackson Fellows will meet as a group with the co-directors (Matt Lindstrom and Marah Jacobson-Schulte). Our bi-monthly seminars, usually held on campus, will involve discussion of fellowships, leadership training, and periodically include guest lecturers from community and state leaders as well as study tours to student sites and visits with other community leaders and sites.

Please feel free to contact Matt Lindstrom, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement or Marah Jacobson-Schulte, Service-Learning Coordinator with any questions. Application deadline is December 1, 2010 (January 15, 2011 for students currently abroad). Interviews will take place mid-December for students studying abroad SP2011 or by the second week of February for returning F2010 study abroad and all other students. We expect to have all interviews completed by mid-February with notification before Spring Break.

Students will be selected based on the following items (submit completed packets to CSB, Murray 170 and/or SJU, SIMONS 142):

1) A cover letter explaining student interest and type of civic engagement work they desire, including potential placement sites if possible. We encourage all students to research and submit ideas for site placements. This should explain why there is a need for this type of civic engagement. Letters must also indicate a willingness and ability to attend bi-monthly seminars on campus and discuss their fellowship at a public forum to be held in the fall. In addition, the cover letter must state that students will not have any other employment if awarded this fellowship.

2) Resume indicating relevant paid and unpaid work/volunteer experiences, relevant class or other training, conferences or workshops attended, honors and awards, public talks or media involvement, and other skills such as languages or computer skills;

3) Two letters of recommendation;

4) Essay of past service and leadership experience (1-2 pages);

5) Current unofficial transcript;

6) Interview with co-directors of the fellowship (following review of application, students will be notified)

7) OPTIONAL Brookings Program: 1-page essay outlining interest in a civic engagement placement with Children’s Museum of South Dakota located in Brookings, SD. This site will have a housing option at no charge to the student. Potential duties include but are not limited to: educational programming for children of all ages, fundraising, research, networking, event planning, and public relations.
The Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy & Civic Engagement

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You will continue your commitment to service and leadership by joining us for our Jackson Fellows Academic Year Program. As Jackson Fellows, students will be awarded a financial stipend ($1,000) in recognition of their year-long involvement in the Jackson Program. The purpose of the academic year program is to continue the momentum created over the summer months and provide a vehicle for strengthening students’ leadership skills and service on and off campus throughout the year. As Jackson Fellows, students will be expected to participate in all group activities. We realize there will be exceptions so we will build in alternatives for students studying abroad or having other conflicts.

Expectations for the academic year:

1) Participate in monthly meetings for the purpose of reflecting on student leadership seminars, service-learning and participation in other campus events such as lectures, panels, conferences, and so forth.
2) Participate in a group service-learning project at least once per semester. Typically these will be all day events.
3) Attend an average of one leadership development seminar per month. Typically these will be ILCP or SELT sponsored events but other events will be offered as alternatives.
4) Attend at least one public lecture or event per month related to public policy, community service, professional networking or civic engagement in some form. Jackson Fellows will be invited to pre-event receptions, dinners, etc. when possible.
5) Participate in group travel to at least one conference per year. Most expenses will be paid.
6) Participate in an alternative spring break experience, strongly encouraged
7) Participate in at least one study tour organized by the Jackson Fellows Program, the McCarthy Center, or another campus organization
8) Jackson Fellows will also organize and arrange some of the above events and others such as charitable fundraising drives. For example, Jackson Fellows could assist the McCarthy Center in their school supply drive for Common Hope, an organization that supports education in Guatemala.
9) Jackson Fellows will also help in the application process for the following year’s Jackson Fellows and may be asked to participate in some of the following summer programs when possible.

To view 2009 Jackson Fellows profiles please go to:

http://www.csbsju.edu/servicelearning/JacksonFellowshipProgram.htm

Please visit CSB/SJU Internships website for tips on finding a site placement:

http://www.csbsju.edu/internship/ops/Searching%20for%20an%20Internship.htm