

Mississippi Education Policy Fellowship Program 2024-25 Employer Information

The Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) is a professional development program that provides emerging leaders with the knowledge and networks to advance education policy. This program is a critical resource for individuals, organizations, and the state to increase knowledge about education policy and linkages between policy and practice. EPFP's mission is to develop leaders in public and private organizations who have the capacity to improve outcomes for children and youth. Over a nine-month commitment, Fellows concentrate on three program strands: public policy, leadership, and professional networking. Fellows will remain in their full-time positions and use their work environment as the context for examining important leadership and policy issues in Mississippi.

EPFP is not just another professional development program. The program brings Fellows and ideas together through a variety of learning activities designed to assist professionals in applying new insights and for cultivating new skills. Participants will learn about and discuss education policy with respected policymakers from across the state and nation. At the end of the year, Fellows will be better informed and more skillful advocates for sound public policy. Major program components consist of:

- (1) Six in-person sessions that provide an in-depth look at state and national education policies and policy making, leadership development, and key networking with education stakeholders and
- (2) a national forum, the Washington Policy Seminar, that convenes Fellows from across the nation to learn from and collaborate around education policy.

EPFP helps build both a state and national network of professionals with a track record of accomplishment. EPFP alumni work in a variety of sectors from which they impact education policy and create real change including state policy makers, education leaders, and non-profit advocates.

Employers have found that supporting participation in the MS-EPFP program provides multiple benefits including:

- Access to a professional program with a track record for employee professional development
- Better informed, more skillful employees who understand policy making and the interconnections of education with other sectors
- Employees who are prepared to assume greater leadership responsibilities
- Expanded professional networks that enhance the organization's ability to access key leaders and decision makers who shape policy on behalf of children and youth.

Employers' Commitment:

- Allow time from work for employee to attend EPFP meetings and the Washington Policy Seminar
- Employers often support participation in the program by paying the program fee and/or supporting the cost of travel for participation. For 2024-25 the program fees are \$2,450 plus travel cost. If applicants apply by the Priority Deadline, tuition is \$2,250.00, and if applicants are referred by an EPFP Alumnus an additional \$100 discount is applied.

Contact co-coordinator, Amanda Tullos, at amanda.tullos@msstate.edu with any questions.

