



NEWS RELEASE

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FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$30K AWARDS FOR ASPIRING TEACHERS OF COLOR IN 2012 WOODROW WILSON-ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND FELLOWSHIPS *Third round of program offers teacher preparation, support, mentoring*

PRINCETON, NJ— The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation has announced the selection of its third cohort of Woodrow Wilson-Rockefeller Brothers Fund (WW-RBF) Aspiring Teachers of Color.

Chosen through a competitive selection process, the 25 WW-RBF Fellows will each receive a \$30,000 stipend to complete a master's degree in education, preparation to teach in a high-need public school, support throughout a three-year teaching commitment, and guidance toward teaching certification. Each Fellow was nominated by one of the program's 48 nominating institutions and 29 graduate education programs.

The Fellows, a number of whom understand first-hand the educational challenges students face in high-need schools, are deeply committed to teaching, and to creating opportunities for young people. Calling the WW-RBF program an opportunity to "live out my passion for teaching every day," 2012 Fellow Jeannette Jackson of New York City said, "Good teaching is as much about passion as it is about reason. It's about not only motivating students to learn, but teaching them how to learn, and doing so in a manner that is relevant, meaningful, and memorable." (*See list of Fellows below/next page.*)

Established in 1992 by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Fellowships for Aspiring Teachers of Color were created to help recruit, support, and retain individuals of color as public education teachers and administrators. Since the program's inception, it has awarded nearly \$8 million in grants and financial assistance to 400 Fellows. In January 2009, RBF transferred the program to the Woodrow Wilson Foundation following a national review of potential host organizations.

"The Foundation is pleased to add this impressive group of young and promising teachers to its national network of outstanding teachers and scholars," said Bill Dandridge, program officer and director of the WW-RBF Fellowships for Aspiring Teachers of Color. "Their desire to serve children in the nation's most challenging schools and communities is an important reason to be hopeful about the future of our public schools."

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The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation (www.woodrow.org) identifies and develops the best minds for the nation's most important challenges. In these areas of challenge, the Foundation awards fellowships to enrich human resources, works to improve public policy, and assists organizations and institutions in enhancing practice in the U.S. and abroad.

Founded in 1940, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (www.rbf.org) encourages social change that contributes to a more just sustainable, and peaceful world. The RBF's grantmaking is organized around three themes: Democratic Practice, Sustainable Development, and Peace and Security, and three pivotal places: New York City, Western Balkans, and Southern China.

THE WOODROW WILSON-ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND FELLOWSHIPS FOR ASPIRING TEACHERS OF COLOR, 2012

Nanor Balabanian • University of California, Santa Barbara
Oliver Benders • Montclair State University
Christell Boyd-Abner • University of Pittsburgh
Shanée Brown • Dartmouth College
Nicole Caldwell • The City College of New York
Donna Chung • Brown University
Gabriella Corales • Texas State University
Jessica Correa • Pomona College
Dustin Dacuan • University of Washington
Hillary Higgs • Williams College
Ogechi Irondi • Swarthmore College
Jeannette Jackson • The City College of New York
Deborah Loperena • California State University, Northridge
Cynthia Ma • University of California – Los Angeles
Allyson Miller • University of California – Santa Barbara
Olufemi Ogunnaike • Swarthmore College
Jamilah Pitts • Spelman College
Pamela Otunnu Porensky • University of Southern Maine
Lisa Sullivan • University of Arizona
Lindsey Todd • University of Pennsylvania
Madelyn Troiano • Lewis & Clark College
Kamilah Welch • Wellesley College
Randyl Wilkerson • Wesleyan University
Nastassia Williams • Wesleyan University
Taylor Williams • Morehouse College

To learn more about the individual Fellows, please see
http://www.woodrow.org/teaching-fellowships/wrbf/meet_fellows.php.