



FACT SHEET

The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation's Leonore Annenberg Teaching Fellowship

What is the Leonore Annenberg Teaching Fellowship?

The Leonore Annenberg Teaching Fellowship is one of two new fellowships launched by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation to address fundamental challenges to improving the teacher workforce. Through the fellowships, Woodrow Wilson will seek to raise the quality of career entrants, demonstrate what effective teacher preparation and retention should look like—particularly in high-need schools—and raise the prestige of the profession.

The Leonore Annenberg Teaching Fellowship is a model for establishing the equivalent of a national “Rhodes Scholarship” for teaching. The Fellowship will provide a \$30,000 stipend to exceptionally able candidates to complete a year-long master’s program at four of the nation’s top teacher-education programs. In exchange, the candidates must agree to teach for three years in high-need secondary schools. Fellows will be given intensive mentoring and assessment during their first three years of teaching.

The Leonore Annenberg Fellowship program has four primary goals. These are:

- **Transform teacher education**—not just for Fellows but for the universities that prepare them, other teacher candidates in the same programs, and the high-need schools where they are placed as teachers;
- **Get strong teachers into high-need schools.** Participating universities have agreed to recruit talented arts and science graduates to work in high-need urban public high schools;
- **Attract the very best candidates to teaching** through a fellowship with a well-known name—along the lines of a Rhodes Scholarship for teaching; and
- **Cut teacher attrition and retain top teachers** through intensive clinical preparation and ongoing in-school mentoring, provided by veteran teachers and supported by able principals.

Who is eligible for the Leonore Annenberg Teaching Fellowship?

Undergraduates and career changers will be eligible through nominating processes at each of the selected host institutions. Candidates must have excellent academic records; have completed bachelor’s degrees with an arts and science discipline major; be highly motivated to teach; and demonstrate commitment to the program’s goals via an essay, interview, and faculty recommendation(s). The Fellowship seeks to attract talented college graduates and mid-career professionals who might not otherwise consider teaching.

How many teachers will the fellowship prepare?

Over three years, the Leonore Annenberg Teaching Fellowship will produce 100 Annenberg Fellows, 25 at each of four of the nation’s most innovative teacher preparation programs. Over

time, the program will expand within the four participating institutions and to new institutions, along with an anticipated national recruitment process once the program moves to scale.

Which institutions are participating and what will they do?

The four exemplary graduate education programs selected by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation to participate in the Annenberg Fellowship initiative are based at Stanford University, the University of Washington, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Virginia. They were chosen based on their reputations for preparing excellent teachers and willingness to support and pursue the programs' goals.

For example, the participating institutions also have agreed to pursue these goals of the Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship:

- Setting up innovative programs (or enhancing existing strong programs) to recruit high-quality arts and science majors to teach in high-need urban and rural public schools;
- Developing evidence-based approaches to teacher preparation and retention, including intensive mentorship, supervision, and assessments by master teachers;
- Providing substantial experience in schools and classrooms for Teaching Fellows that is linked to their teacher preparation coursework;
- Participating in multi-site, longitudinal research to assess the success of the recruitment, preparation, and induction programs.

How will the Fellowship program help improve teacher supply, retention, and success in the classroom?

The Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship promotes a comprehensive new approach to the recruitment, preparation, and induction of exemplary teachers who are committed to teaching in high-need urban and rural public schools. This endeavor is based on three core assumptions that have been shown to improve both recruitment and retention:

- Recruitment and selection into teacher education needs to be thoughtfully pursued, with rigorous standards for entry into professional preparation programs;
- Effective teacher preparation requires pedagogical training and content-area mastery, as taught in the arts and science disciplines; extended classroom experience; and coherent integration of theory, practice, and academic course work;
- Comprehensive induction strategies that improve the initial teaching environment can significantly reduce turnover rates and classes that are taught by new teachers working with mentors are more likely to lead to positive academic gains for students.

What is the timeline for the Leonore Annenberg Teaching Fellowship?

Applications for the Fellowship will be available through the participating institutions in fall 2008, with Fellows to begin enrolling in their graduate programs by fall 2009 and to be placed as first-year teachers by fall 2010. (Some programs may have earlier start dates.) A national application process will be developed as the program moves to scale.

How will the Annenberg Teaching Fellows be selected?

Arts and science faculty at participating institutions will nominate top candidates from their recruitment pool. Recommendations will be forwarded to participating university presidents, who will endorse the nominations and forward them to the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. The Foundation will convene a national selection committee and advisory board composed of national

experts in secondary education, teacher preparation, and individuals familiar with the needs of participating secondary schools. The selection group will make final decisions on the candidates nominated by the universities.

How will the Leonore Annenberg Teaching Fellowship be funded?

The fellowship is funded by a \$5 million grant from the Annenberg Foundation and a \$1 million grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York.

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