Call for Applications:
Learning Community on Engaged Graduate Education (EGE)
USC JOINT EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

The USC Joint Educational Project (JEP) seeks graduate students for a learning community formed to explore graduate-level service-learning and community engagement (SLCE) at USC. JEP is a service-learning program in the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Established in 1972, JEP links traditional classroom-based learning with educational experiences in the communities surrounding USC’s main campus. The program seeks to foster the intellectual, social and ethical development of USC students while providing valuable services to community schools and organizations.

Over the past 45 years, JEP has collaborated with faculty to develop SLCE opportunities primarily for undergraduate students. Recently, JEP has seen an increase in the number of graduate students seeking opportunities for community engagement. This has raised several questions for our staff:

- What does SLCE look like at the graduate level at elite, research-intensive universities?
- How does it – and how should it – differ from undergraduate engagement, in terms of its organization, purpose, and desired outcomes?
- What are the barriers and facilitators of graduate student participation in SLCE?
- How should the SLCE field – as a growing movement in higher education and as an evolving discipline within it – support and recognize graduate student engagement?
- How can JEP address the particular needs of USC graduate students?

The purpose of the EGE Learning Community is to bring together graduate students from across the university who share an interest in civic and community engagement to do the following:

1. Discover the current state of graduate-level SLCE at USC.
2. Learn about approaches to engaged scholarship, teaching and service at other universities and across a wide range of disciplines.
3. Co-create structures that will support USC graduate students with an interest in SLCE.
4. Prepare current and future graduate students for professional and/or academic careers that incorporate SLCE.

EGE Learning Community Structure and Requirements

The Engaged Graduate Education Learning Community will meet 4-5 times over the course of the Spring 2018 semester (dates TBD. The first meeting will take place on Friday January 12 from 12:00-4:00pm; remaining meetings will be from 12:00-2:00pm). The total required effort will be approximately 40 hours, including time attending meetings.

Each gathering will focus on one or more SLCE topics, such as funding and other resources for SLCE, engaged methodologies, community partnerships, strategies for disseminating community-engaged scholarship (broadly defined), credentials for SLCE, and other issues to be determined by the group. Members will work in small groups to select reading assignments and lead discussions at Learning Community gatherings.

Learning Community members are expected to attend and participate in all meetings, complete all assignments (such as readings, research, presentations) in advance of any deadlines. In addition, members will develop individual work plans that outline contributions to at least one of the four primary purposes of the EGE Learning Community. Project work plans will developed and approved in collaboration with JEP program coordinators.

EGE members will receive a $1000 stipend for their contributions to the learning community.

Applicant Qualifications

Currently enrolled USC graduate students from all departments and degree programs who are considering careers in higher education and/or in professional fields amenable to community engagement are eligible to apply. Candidates must show strong potential to become successful engaged scholars or professionals through demonstrated experience in activities that link higher education practices (e.g., research, teaching, service) to community engagement. Ideally, students will be currently engaged in SLCE, but experiences could have occurred during undergraduate education or prior employment.
Application Process

Please submit an application to scharris@usc.edu by Friday, December 15th. A complete application includes the following:

- Application form: Click here or cut and paste the following URL into a browser: https://usccollege.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0DjhR9MtJDQY0Tj
- A brief personal statement (maximum 1000 words) that describes your interest in joining engaged graduate education, your experience with SCLE and what you hope to contribute to the learning community
- Curriculum vitae or résumé
- Unofficial transcript
- A letter of recommendation from someone familiar with your work and your potential to contribute to the learning community
- For doctoral students: A letter of support from your primary graduate advisor (if different from the recommender in the prior bullet point)

For additional information, please contact:

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