



Bill & Jean Milliken Alumni Fellowship: Call for Applications

Communities In Schools National, through its Milliken Center for Innovation and Student Success, is now accepting applications for its 2019-2020 Bill & Jean Milliken Alumni Fellowship. This opportunity is for CIS alumni who wish to spend six to nine months in residence in the Washington, DC, area or work remotely from home with regular visits to the National Office, tackling a public policy development project or problem of practice related to integrated student supports. The selected fellow would work alongside CIS National staff in a collaborative, cross-functional exploration of some of the most important and compelling issues facing CIS and the students we serve. Through this annual call for applications, we seek to advance our collective work and give voice to the next generation of CIS leaders and thinkers, while honoring Bill & Jean Milliken's unique contributions to this organization.

About the Alumni Fellowship

The CIS National Board has established the Milliken Center for Innovation and Student Success to honor Founder Bill Milliken's enduring legacy, and to catalyze the next chapter of CIS history. There are three primary channels of work:

1. The Center provides the backbone of support, training and certification of site coordinators in over 2,400 schools across America. Through its leadership, the Center ensures site coordinators have the tools and training they need to deliver the services our students require and deserve.
2. The Center also supports our thought leadership and public policy work designed to ensure the CIS model of integrated student supports is on the agenda at the federal, state, and local levels.
3. Through its Innovation Lab, the Center seeks to change the nature of public education through technology and other tools, without losing the primacy of caring adult relationships in our work. The Innovation Lab will develop and market new products and services to address the ever-changing needs of students in a global economy.

The alumni fellow can engage in any of the three primary channels of work housed in the Milliken Center by identifying a solution to a problem of practice in CIS schools, supporting an innovative solution through the Lab, or developing public policy recommendations or supportive research.

Each year, the call for applications identifies an annual focus and areas of exploration for the fellow to consider. Proposed projects and the work of the fellowship must be within this focus and address the stated areas of exploration, with delivery of a final work product – as jointly agreed upon by CIS National and the fellow – at the end of the fellowship. We expect the fellow will present his/her project at Leadership Town Hall in September 2020.

2019 Fellowship Focus

Communities In Schools is advancing its work in several key areas, from social emotional learning to school discipline, college and career readiness to school turnaround. This year, we're looking for fellows interested in projects resulting in a final work product of a research paper, toolkit or case study on the topic of **improving school climate**.

The National School Climate Center defines school climate as "the quality and character of school life. School climate is based on patterns of students', parents' and school personnel's experience of school life; it also reflects norms, goals, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching and learning practices, and organizational structures."

Communities In Schools believes that the work of a trained caring adult (the CIS site coordinator) can be part of a schoolwide effort to provide a positive school climate, contributing to youth development, learning, and success later in life. We believe that social emotional learning and developmental relationships contribute to school climate as well. We are looking for ways to advance this work at the national, affiliate, and school levels.

Interested applicants should consider how they might approach one or more of these topics, and propose a project that addresses site coordinator training, public policy, or innovation. Projects might include research, curriculum development, proposed policy changes, advocacy training, or a product/service to advance the topic. Be bold! Projects that demonstrate creative thinking, even if the idea is not fully formed yet, will be a good demonstration of your talents. For example, the alumni fellow could contribute by:

- Working with CIS National to prepare training or materials for school principals to understand how integrated student supports help develop positive school climate.
- Working with a state or local affiliate to design a program fostering a positive school climate which could be replicated by other affiliates.
- Creating an implementation toolkit for schools on how social emotional learning contributes to positive school climate.
- A case study research paper on how programs like CIS have contributed to a positive school climate.
- Policy recommendations for state legislatures or school districts to adopt that would foster a positive school climate.
- Another project the applicant wishes to propose.

All projects must focus on the work of CIS and the provision of integrated student supports in a way that achieves the organization's mission to surround students with a network of support, so they stay in school and achieve in life.

Qualifications

The fellowship is open to any CIS alumnus, who has graduated from high school after being served by a local affiliate. The fellowship is for a term of six to nine months, with flexibility for part-time or full-time work. Students in college should plan to carry a light credit load during this time.

Stipend

A total of \$90,000 is allocated for the Alumni Fellowship. This funding may be used to cover a monthly stipend, benefits, and travel expenses to the National Office if the fellow resides outside of the D.C. area. Housing, food, clothing, and local transportation are the responsibility of the fellow, to be paid with the stipend. Compensation is prorated for a part-time position. The fellow must work a minimum of 30 hours per week to be eligible for participation in the CIS benefit program. All stipend terms will be finalized in a memorandum once the fellowship is awarded.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit a project proposal not to exceed three pages, single-spaced, describing their topic and idea – or ideas – for what they hope to accomplish and a plan for how the work will unfold over nine months. The proposal should be accompanied by a résumé and cover letter expressing the desire and personal commitment of the applicant. The letter should state whether the applicant plans to reside in the Washington, DC area or work remotely with regular visits to the National Office, if you are seeking full or part-time, and the length of time needed to complete your project.

All materials must be submitted electronically to VevurkaE@cisnet.org no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Time on Wednesday, June 5, 2019. All three components are required:

- Letter

- Project proposal
- Résumé

A selection committee will make an award by the end of June, and the fellow should plan to start work no later than September 1, 2019 (may start earlier). The fellowship concludes six to nine months after the start-date and must include a final presentation to the CIS network.

Following selection, a lead staff member at CIS National will be assigned to the fellow and the two of you will jointly decide on a work plan and the final deliverable product. A memorandum of understanding will be signed to memorialize this joint commitment and set out the terms of the fellowship's stipend.