



## **Bill & Jean Milliken Alumni Fellowship: Call for Applications**

Communities In Schools National is now accepting applications for its 2020-21 Bill & Jean Milliken Alumni Fellowship. Due to COVID-19, this year's fellowship is a virtual, six-month opportunity for two CIS alumni to each tackle a project related to our diversity, equity and implementation (DEI) imperative and our goal to build out more inclusive practices and policies for student and alumni and activate student voice in local communities.

The selected fellows 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 and alumni we serve to live out our commitment to supporting students to stay in school and achieve in life. 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 alumni fellows identify an innovative solution to a problem of practice in CIS schools and/or enterprise 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 2021.

### ***2020-21 Fellowship Focus***

Since 2017, we've been working collectively with the CIS national board and network in designing, planning and implementing our DEI strategy. This year we are prioritizing work focused on activating student and alumni voice and building out inclusive policies and practices for alumni. We are looking for fellows interested in projects resulting in a final work product of a research paper, toolkit, or case study on the topic of **empowering and activating student and alumni voice**.

The Communities In Schools mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and *achieve in life*. This year's fellows will focus on projects that help fulfill the "achieve in life" portion of our mission statement. Interested applicants should consider how they might approach one or more of these topics, and propose a project that addresses the type of local and national organizational policies and practices that the CIS network could implement on behalf of its students and alumni. Projects might include research, 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 research other youth-serving organizations and affiliates within our network that elevate student voice and/or partner with their alumni to further their organizational mission and better serve their target population.
- Proposing a recruitment and communications platform structure for our graduating students and incoming alumni.
- A plan for surveying the network and creating a compendium of student empowerment programming and how to implement

- Design a program on student empowerment, such as voter encouragement, civic engagement, student advocacy, etc.
- 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 months, with flexibility for part-time or full-time work. Students in college should plan to carry a light credit load during this time.

### ***Payment & Benefits***

In addition to a pro-rated six-month salary, the fellow must work a minimum of 30 hours per week to be eligible for participation in the CIS benefit program. Due to COVID-19, the national office is currently closed, but if it's deemed safe to open and to travel during the fellowship, CIS national office also will cover costs associated with any alumni travel on behalf of the CIS national office. All payment terms will be finalized in an offer letter 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 six 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 if you are seeking full or part-time.

All materials must be submitted electronically to [VevurkaE@cisnet.org](mailto:VevurkaE@cisnet.org) no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Time on Friday, November 9, 2020. All three components are required:

- Letter
- Project proposal
- Résumé

A selection committee will make an award by December, and the fellow should plan to start work in January 2021. The fellowship concludes six 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.