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## Louisville Bonner Leaders Program Information 2014-2015

The Bonner Leader Program is a service-learning, leadership development program that places undergraduate students in local nonprofit organizations addressing health, social justice, educational, poverty, environmental, and cultural/arts issues present in the Louisville community. In addition to direct service experiences, training, enrichment, reflection and co-education with community partners are integral aspects of the program. Through experiences, Bonner Leaders are encouraged to examine their service work as it relates to the Bonner programs six Common Commitments and complete training and enrichment activities to develop leadership skills that encourage intentional citizenship.

At the heart of the Bonner Leader Program lie these six Common Commitments:

Civic Engagement - Participate intentionally as a citizen in the democratic process, actively engaging in public policy and direct service,

Community Building - Establish and sustain a vibrant community of place, personal relationships and common interests,

Diversity - Respect the many different dimensions of diversity in our public lives  
International Perspective - Develop international understanding that enables Bonners to participate successfully in a global society,

Social Justice - Advocate for fairness, impartiality and equality while addressing systemic social and environmental issues, and

Spiritual Exploration - Explore personal beliefs while respecting the spiritual practices of others.

### **About the Bonner Foundation**

The Bonner Foundation is a nonprofit organization located in Princeton, New Jersey. Started by Corella and Bertram F. Bonner, the original purpose of the Foundation was to help those who, like Mr. and Mrs. Bonner, grew up in underprivileged areas. In 1989, the Foundation began working with colleges and universities to establish the Bonner Scholar Program as a way to provide scholarships to students who could not otherwise afford to attend college and to drive students and institutions of higher education to serve their own communities. In 1997, Bonner Leader Program began being established in additional educational institutions with the same goals. In any given year, there are approximately 3000 Bonners serving nationally in 80 colleges and universities.

The Foundation oversees and facilitates both the Bonner Scholar Programs and the Bonner Leader Programs, and implements workshops and training sessions for students so that they become more aware of social issues. We encourage you to read more about the Bonner Program at: [www.Bonner.org](http://www.Bonner.org).

### **Bonner Leader Educational Award for Service**

Because this program is funded through AmeriCorps, students are required to complete the program in a calendar year. Upon completion of their term of service, they receive an education award, valid for up to seven years, and can be applied to student loans or to college costs. Students who do not complete the program are not

eligible for any funds.

A term is a 1 year commitment of 300 hours - \$1175.00.

Students may recommit for additional terms and continue in the program annually.

The Bonner Leader Program requires serious commitment to the community partner and full participation in the leadership program. Bonner Leaders are expected to make the program a high priority in relation to other commitments. Students planning to be involved in several RSO's, SGA (or other co-curricular programs with several requirements) or have an intensive work and/or academic schedule, should seriously decide if time commitment of the Bonner Leader Program is feasible.

### **Bonner Leader Requirements**

- Attend Fall Orientation and the Spring Retreat
- Attend bi-weekly meetings
- Complete readings and reflections
- Complete service hour logs, community learning agreements, and accomplishments
- Attend site specific orientation
- Attend one on campus program of workshop that relates to the Common Commitments
- Dedicate 6-10 hours weekly to their service site
- Participate in occasional student-led engagement activities i.e. MLK Day, SOUL, service projects, and Community Service Fair
- Attend Bonner sponsored activities
- Abide by all AmeriCorps guidelines

### **Bonner Leader Service Sites:**

Once accepted into the program, Bonner leaders will meet with the Bonner Coordinator to review Bonner Community Partner options and be assigned a service site of interest. Service sites include Americana Community Center, Anne Braden Institute, Brooklawn, Down Syndrome of Louisville, Louisville Nature Center, Gilda's Club, Iroquois Public Library, KY Refugee Ministries, and Oxmoor Farms/Food Literacy Project, etc. Bonner Leaders begin as regular volunteers, but the goal is for Bonner Leaders to become a part of projects and teams addressing specific issues while assuming increasing leadership roles and responsibilities at their assigned service sites. For this reasons, students should plan to work with a Bonner Leader site and remain primarily with that site for their term of service. Students are responsible for their own transportation to sites.

### **Additional Eligibility Criteria:**

- Must be at least 17 years of age
- Must be a US citizen or permanent alien resident
- No felony convictions

### **Information for Applicants**

Applications are due to Lynetta Mathis, Oppenheimer Hall, and Room 211 by 5 pm, April 18, 2014.

Note: only a small number of individuals are accepted into the program each year. Late applications will not be considered.

More information can be found at our website at <http://louisville.edu/kent/bonner-leader-program>.

Questions should be directed to Lynetta Mathis, Kent School of Social Work at 502-852-6137 or [lynetta.mathis@louisville.edu](mailto:lynetta.mathis@louisville.edu).