

## Educational Opportunity and Diversity

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Dear Colleagues:

Diversity in American higher education remains a pressing concern. There are countless symposia, panel discussions, lecture series, books, and opinion pieces on how best to address the lack of diversity among the student population, faculty ranks, and university administrators. The City University of New York has been at the forefront of this national dialogue through some innovative policy initiatives and their implementation. A notable example continues to be the CUNY Pipeline Program that for twenty-five years has sought to increase the diversity of minds and bodies critical to the transformation of American higher education.

To this end, we request your assistance in disseminating information to your administrative personnel, faculty, and students about the 2017-2018 competition for the next cohort of CUNY Pipeline Fellows. The application deadline is **January 15, 2017**.

The CUNY Pipeline Program for Careers in College Teaching and Research provides educational and financial support to thirty academically talented undergraduates from underrepresented groups who are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree. In the third decade of its existence, the CUNY Pipeline Program is an institutional component of the Office of Educational Opportunity and Diversity (EOD), which advances the strategic mission of The CUNY Graduate Center “to provide access to doctoral education for diverse groups of highly talented students, including those who have been underrepresented in higher education.” The Pipeline Program recruits exclusively from CUNY’s 270,000 undergraduates and figures prominently in EOD’s effort to foster academic excellence, diversity, and equity in American higher education.

The CUNY Pipeline Program offers a rigorous course of study beginning with a six-week intensive summer institute featuring a seminar on research methods, a writing seminar, a course on critical thinking, and formal GRE preparation. The Pipeline Program instructs the fellow in the mechanics of applying to graduate school and offers assistance in the composition of a statement of purpose alongside a research statement and the writing sample. In addition, the fellows are offered a general introduction to graduate education. After the summer, the Pipeline Fellows work closely with graduate student mentors who are doctoral students at the CUNY Graduate Center. In consultation with our instructional staff, these mentors offer their mentees guidance in selecting appropriate graduate programs and successfully completing their applications. Over the fall and spring semesters of their senior year, the fellows write a

substantial research paper under the supervision of a designated faculty advisor and attend monthly colloquia at the CUNY Graduate Center focused on professionalization and preparing for life in the academy. In the spring of the Pipeline Fellows' senior year, the program culminates with a conference at which each of the fellows offers a presentation on some aspect of the Pipeline research project.

In the past thirty-six months, corresponding with the appointment with a new Executive Officer, the program has experienced considerable success in its mission. Over the last two years, Pipeline Fellows have entertained offers with multi-year funding from the University of Chicago, Cornell, Columbia, Northwestern, Rutgers University, Vanderbilt, University of Massachusetts, University of Illinois, University of Iowa, and Yale to name just a few of the most recent placements. During this period, more than 90 percent of the Pipeline Fellows have been awarded admission to graduate programs with full funding.

Again, we simply request that information about CUNY Pipeline Program be widely disseminated throughout your campus so that we can recruit from the widest possible pool.

Thank you for identifying promising students and a future generation of faculty.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. L. Bennett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Herman L. Bennett  
Professor of History  
Executive Officer, Office of Educational  
Opportunity & Diversity

# GET READY FOR GRAD SCHOOL

The Pipeline Program is a CUNY-wide initiative designed to provide educational and financial support to CUNY undergraduates from groups currently underrepresented in our nation's universities who are interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in preparation for college-level teaching and advanced research.

## HOW DO WE DO THIS?

**Pipeline Summer Institute (PSI)** - The Pipeline Program provides orientation to the world of graduate education through a six-week summer institute at the CUNY Graduate Center. In the summer institute, fellows take a research seminar in either the social sciences or the humanities designed to introduce them to graduate-level work and research skills. They also take courses on critical thinking and writing, Grad School 101, and intensive GRE preparation. An important outcome of the PSI is the drafting of a research statement and writing samples that form the foundation of later activities.

**Monthly Colloquia** - In the fall and spring semesters, fellows attend monthly colloquia at the Graduate Center focused on the graduate admissions process. They also work in small peer mentoring groups led by MAGNET fellows (these fellows are Graduate Center doctoral students who are also from underrepresented groups). We try to provide as much overlap between the academic discipline of the Pipeline students and MAGNET mentors.

**Research Project** - Research and scholarly writing is the foundation of any graduate school application. Pipeline students conduct a research project directed by a CUNY faculty mentor (chosen by the student).

**Research Conference** - An important focus of the spring colloquia sessions is to help students prepare to present their research in a conference setting. Pipeline students report on their research project at the annual CUNY Pipeline Conference held at the Graduate Center in late spring and submit a thesis based on this research at the end of the academic year.

**Supportive Environment** - Everyone involved with the Pipeline Program (faculty, staff, mentors, and your fellow students) is dedicated to providing a safe, fun, intellectually stimulating, and caring environment. We spend a lot of time together and due to a relatively small cohort we really get to know each other and grow to care about each other as scholars and as human beings.

**Funding** - Pipeline fellows receive stipend payments totaling about \$6,000 throughout the course of the program as they complete certain milestones.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications are completed online and are accepted from late fall to early spring for the Pipeline Cohort that starts in Summer. **Deadline is January 15, 2017.**

You'll be required to provide:

- 2 essays (topics can be found on website)
- CV or resumé
- Contact info for your faculty mentor
- Official college transcript
- At least 2 letters of recommendation (one from your faculty mentor)

Find out more at  
[diversiphd.com](http://diversiphd.com)