Practical Community Learning Project Fellowship
Program in Practical Policy Engagement (P3E)

Title: “American Heart Association Tobacco in School Elimination”
Partner/client: The American Heart Association
Terms: May 10, 2021 - June 25, 2021, 12 hours/week, $500 stipend

The Ford School’s Program in Practical Policy Engagement (P3E) is partnering with the American Heart Association to provide a short-term virtual fellowship opportunity for up to three rising seniors from the Ford School.

The American Heart Association Department of Health Strategies seeks to partner with the University of Michigan’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy to assist with the research and development of tobacco in schools’ policies using best practices and current research. First use of cigarettes occurs by 18 years of age 87% of the time, and nearly all (98%) of first use is by 26 years of age. There is no such thing as a ‘casual smoker’, as nicotine begins to addict immediately, and therefore removing the visibility and the availability of tobacco products from major retailers is an important step in preventing youth from ever having that first tobacco product. Tobacco displays have a tremendous impact on youth, with a direct corollary between exposure to tobacco marketing in stores and smoking initiation. 5.6 million young Americans who are alive today will die from smoking – unless there is more action.

Fellows will be charged with researching current school policies throughout the state of Michigan and the U.S. to identify best practices of reducing tobacco usage among high school student populations. Fellows will be encouraged to identify policies that use a lesser or non-punitive approach in terms of punishing offenders within a student body. Fellows will also be charged with using their findings to craft policy recommendations for current policies that could be adapted. Under the supervision of the community partner, fellows will engage with a cohort of student advocates from the Ann Arbor area schools by providing research for the development of non-smoking/vaping social campaigns. Fellows will also be expected to attend monthly Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Tobacco Elimination Task Force meetings.

Fellows will strictly adhere to remote work throughout the project. Fellows will participate in weekly virtual skills workshops covering topics such as best practices in community engagement, data evaluation, and project management. The weekly workshops will take place on Mondays from 11:30am - 12:50pm. The project will also provide fellows with opportunities for dialog, research, and service through engagement meetings with the community partners. These engagement meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays from 11:30am - 12:30pm. Fellows will also need to conduct independent and group research outside of the formal project meetings.

Participating students will receive a $500 stipend.
This opportunity is limited to three current/continuing Ford School students. Interested students should submit their current resume and a short cover letter explaining their interest by COB on Sunday, May 2 to calvertd@umich.edu. Students will be notified of their status by Monday, May 3.
Title: “Michigan Parenting Time Guideline – Accessibility and Usability Evaluation”
Partner/client: The State Court Administrative Office Friend of the Court Bureau (SCAO-FOCB)
Terms: May 10, 2021 - June 25, 2021, 12 hours/week, $500 stipend

The Ford School’s Program in Practical Policy Engagement (P3E) is partnering with the State Court Administrative Office Friend of the Court Bureau (SCAO-FOCB) to provide a short-term virtual fellowship opportunity for up to three rising seniors from the Ford School.

The State Court Administrative Office Friend of the Court Bureau (SCAO-FOCB) will be the community partner for this project. SCAO-FOCB is a judicial branch state agency created by state law (MCL 552.519) for the purpose of improving efficiency and effectiveness of the various friend of the court (FOC) offices across the state. FOC offices are responsible for assisting the court by gathering information and making recommendations about custody, parenting time, and child support, as well as enforcing existing court orders in those areas. To help FOC offices in recommendations about parenting time, the SCAO-FOCB developed a Michigan Parenting Time Guideline (Guideline), which was revised in early 2021. The recent revision aims to increase accessibility for parents seeking information on their own. It also takes a child-focused, child-first position to parenting time, positing that where possible, it's best for children to have strong, healthy relationships with both parents through regular contact.

This project will assess whether the Guideline revision has achieved its goals in accessibility and usability, as well as whether specific content of the Guideline is reflective of Michigan families’ actual practice and needs. The fellows will assist in researching best practices in administering government surveys and focus groups, launching surveys, engaging with key stakeholders, and suggesting next steps. Based on this research, the fellows will provide technical assistance to the SCAO-FOCB Guideline revision project lead by assisting in the design and implementation of surveys. Separate surveys will be created for two distinct audiences of users of the Guideline: (1) parents who have an existing custody, parenting time, and child support case; and (2) legal/court professionals who work with parents to determine a parenting time schedule. The parents survey, in particular, should also explore the impact of a change in parenting time on payment of a child support obligation. The fellows will also research funding sources for future survey participation incentives for parent groups.

Fellows will strictly adhere to remote work throughout the project. Fellows will participate in weekly virtual skills workshops covering topics such as best practices in community engagement, data evaluation, and project management. The weekly workshops will take place on Mondays from 11:30am - 12:50pm. The project will also provide students with opportunities for dialog, research, and service through engagement meetings with the community partners. These engagement meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays from 12:30pm – 1:30pm. Fellows will also need to conduct independent and group research outside of the formal project meetings.
Participating students will receive a $500 stipend.

This opportunity is limited to three current/continuing Ford School students. Interested students should submit their current resume and a short cover letter explaining their interest by COB on Sunday, May 2 to calvertd@umich.edu. Students will be notified of their status by Monday, May 3.
Practical Community Learning Project Fellowship
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Title: “UM-Flint Office of Economic Development, Scan of Cybersecurity Training Programs”
Partner/client: UM-Flint Office of Economic Development
Terms: May 10, 2021 - June 25, 2021, 12 hours/week, $500 stipend

The Ford School’s Program in Practical Policy Engagement (P3E) is partnering with the UM-Flint Office of Economic Development to provide a short-term virtual fellowship opportunity for up to three rising seniors from the Ford School.

The Office of Economic Development (OED) at UM-Flint seeks to partner with students of the University of Michigan’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy to assist with researching the cybersecurity training ecosystem in Flint, Michigan, with a specific focus on north Flint. The Office of Economic Development at UM-Flint houses UM-Flint’s Cybersecurity Training Center (CTC), which officially began offering programming in fall, 2020. The CTC is the nexus of cybersecurity training in the 7-county I-69 Thumb Region of Michigan, which encompasses the counties of Genesee, Shiawassee, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac, Huron, and Tuscola.

Fellows will study both the local cybersecurity training ecosystem and best practices in communities with demographics similar to Flint. Topics of interest include what types of training are available, how much they cost, and delivery methods. We are interested in both adult and youth programming. Through virtual interviews with local stakeholders, fellows will learn if there is a demand for this type of training, and if not, what are possible reasons. For example, are the trainings cost-prohibitive, is there a need to raise awareness of the field, is there an overall lack of interest, or are there other barriers? Similarly, fellows will document challenges and opportunities in communities that have been able to implement cybersecurity training programs. For youth programming, what would be the preferred approach: in school, after school, summer camp, etc. The research findings will be used to help inform UM-Flint’s Office of Economic Development, as well as community stakeholders, policymakers, and potential funders.

Fellows will strictly adhere to remote work throughout the project. Fellows will participate in weekly virtual skills workshops covering topics such as best practices in community engagement, data evaluation, and project management. The weekly workshops will take place on Mondays from 11:30am - 12:50pm. The project will also provide students with opportunities for dialog, research, and service through engagement meetings with the community partners. These engagement meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays from 10:00am - 11:00am. Fellows will also need to conduct independent and group research outside of the formal project meetings.

Participating students will receive a $500 stipend.
This opportunity is limited to three current/continuing Ford School students. Interested students should submit their current resume and a short cover letter explaining their interest by COB on Sunday, May 2 to calvertd@umich.edu. Students will be notified of their status by Monday, May 3.