Center for Inclusive Education
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To: Graduate Program Directors, Graduate Program Coordinators
From: Karian Wright, Director, Center for Inclusive Education
Date: December 2, 2024
Subject: **2025 DR. W. BURGHARDT TURNER FELLOWSHIP**

Mission

Thank you for your interest in the Graduate Diversity Fellowship Program, known as the Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship at Stony Brook University, which is funded by the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI). The Turner Fellowship is designed to direct aid to graduate/professional students who have demonstrated academic achievement and overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education. Candidates will contribute to the diversity of the student body by demonstrating their commitment to facilitating and enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in their academic programs and activities.

This fellowship is one of the many programs coordinated by the Center for Inclusive Education (CIE) under the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Intercultural Initiatives (DI3) and in close connection with the Graduate School at Stony Brook.

Nominee Eligibility

The focus of the Turner Fellowship is to support students in pursuit of terminal degrees. Therefore, doctoral applicants are given the highest consideration for awards. A very limited number of master's fellowship nominees will be considered with strong justification.

To participate in the Turner Fellowship, candidates are required to meet the following criteria:
1. United States Citizen or Permanent Resident
2. Have received an offer of admission to the Stony Brook University graduate or professional program prior to the student's nomination
3. Demonstrate how they have overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education.
4. Demonstrate a commitment to contributing to the diversity of the student body by facilitating and enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in their academic programs and campus activities.

Even though financial need is not a requirement for program eligibility, nominees may utilize economic disadvantage as a basis for eligibility.

Preference will be given to nominees who are:

- From a **low-income background** (e.g., Pell-eligible as undergraduates, eligible for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for 2+ years, received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, have experienced homelessness, have been in the foster care system, or grew up in a U.S. rural area as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration),
- Were **first-generation college students** (students whose parents have not earned a bachelor's degree),
- Have **overcome adversity**,

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- Are **AmeriCorps alumni**,
- Are **veterans or active/reserve duty military service members**.

This scholarship program is open to any and all prospective candidates regardless of race, color, national origin, or sex and is consistent with all current governing federal and state nondiscrimination law. All application submissions will be assessed and evaluated in accordance with the required eligibility criteria.

All campus distributions are pending annual state budget approval. While the ODEI has been awarding campus scholarships for many years, funding may not be guaranteed each year.

Departmental Support Requirements

To be eligible for a Turner Fellowship, nominees must have already received an offer of admission to the program with full financial support. Ideally, nominees will have already received their offer of admission (and offer letter) from the program before the Turner nomination deadline.

- Full financial support implies an agreement to provide a full TA/GA/RA line for PhD programs or ½ TA/GA/RA line for Master's students, plus a full tuition scholarship for the duration of the fellowship period. **For full consideration, departments must demonstrate a commitment to maintain full TA/GA/RA line support to Turner awardees – Turner funding may not be used to reduce or offset your program's cost.**
- In recent years, some doctoral programs have found it preferable to divide the Turner supplement support differently over the five-year period. The CIE is open to alternative funding structures to recruit Turner Fellows in cases where the standard model has not yielded success.

Turner Award Structure

The duration of the Turner Fellowship award is five years for doctoral students, four years for medical school students, up to three years for MFA students, and up to two years for terminal master's students (contingent upon the length of the degree program). Students who have previously earned a master's degree or who are currently enrolled in a master's degree program and are applying to transition to the doctoral program are eligible for nomination.

The Turner Fellowship provides $50,000 ($40,000 for MD, up to $30,000 for the MFA, and $20,000 for terminal, two-year masters degrees) in supplemental support to attract the best domestic applicants from underrepresented groups paid as a supplement to program-level support (assistantship, stipend, tuition scholarship, etc.).

Authorized Offers and Backstopping Process

As in the past, graduate programs that submit one or more Turner nominations may make one additional offer beyond their number of authorized offers under the backstopping process. For example, a program that is allocated 5 lines with an offer ratio of 3 will be allowed to make 15 offers in addition to their top Turner nominee. This means that your top Turner nominee will not count against your authorized offers. This does not mean, however, that your program will receive an additional TA line if a Turner Fellowship is awarded. If your program over-recruits, your extra lines will have to be paid back via the

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backstopping process. The purpose of this fellowship is to allow you to go after top diverse applicants, recognizing that the conversion of such offers is often lower.

Funding Appointment Process

The CIE will continue with the Turner funding appointment process, which has been used in recent years. **Departments no longer fill out the Turner supplement amount on their State Appointment form, nor do they fill out a separate RF Fellowship form for the Turner portion of the stipend package.** The CIE will disburse stipend supplements as a financial aid post via the student's SOLAR account in increments over the fall and spring semesters. For students who are in a stand-alone, Turner-supported fellowship year, the CIE will process their appointment paperwork as a full Graduate Assistant. We will continue to provide detailed procedural information as needed.

InfoReady Nomination Instructions

All application materials will be managed through the online InfoReady nomination portal. After departments submit their online nominations, nominees will be automatically emailed and prompted to submit their "Turner Statement" information, which is now in the form of sociodemographic and short-answer response questions. **Information submitted by the nominee will not be viewable by the department.**

Turner Nomination Deadlines

December 2, 2024	Nomination portal will open for graduate and professional programs to submit their nominations: https://stonybrook.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1955893
January 21, 2025 *12:00 PM (ET)*	Departments must identify the nominee(s) in SLATE using the fellowship nomination button for "Turner Fellowship" no later than 12:00 PM (ET). Instructions are attached. Programs that do not fall under the Graduate Program instance in SLATE must email the names of intended nominees to TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu.
January 27, 2025 *12:00 PM (ET)*	Graduate Program Directors must submit all nomination packets in the InfoReady portal no later than 12:00 PM (ET). Each program may nominate up to five (5) students. *Important Note: Ideally, nominees will have received their offer of admission and offer letter from the program before this January 27th deadline because once the department's nomination is submitted, the nominee will automatically receive a link to submit their information.*

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February 3, 2025 *11:59 PM (ET)*	Student nominees must submit their Turner nomination information in the InfoReady portal no later than 11:59 PM (ET). Nominees will receive an emailed link immediately after departments submit their nomination packets in InfoReady.
Early-February 2025	Turner Fellowship Advisory Committee will meet to select awardees.
Mid-February 2025	Awardees will be announced.

Nomination Instructions for Graduate Program Directors

A maximum of **five** nominations will be considered per graduate or medical program.

Please note that Turner Statement information will be collected from the nominees directly. However, you are welcome to let them know that they are being nominated for a Turner Fellowship and that they will receive an email from InfoReady prompting them to complete the process. Nominees may contact the Turner Program team anytime with questions or concerns.

Graduate Program Directors must submit the following materials for each nominee:

1. A copy of the nominee's Offer of Admission Letter
2. Turner Offer of Financial Support document (template available in InfoReady)
3. Nominee's graduate school application in PDF format. If another application portal is used instead of SLATE, programs should submit one PDF containing the nominee's online application, personal statement, transcripts, and letters of recommendation.
4. Short-answer questions to be completed by the Graduate Program Director or nominator

Instructions for Nominated Students

After the department submits the nominee's information through the online portal, nominees will be automatically emailed with a submission link where they can enter their information. **Nominees are no longer required to write a Turner Statement**.

- Copy of CV or resume (PDF format)
- Optional socio-demographic multiple-choice questions related to multiple elements of groups with impediments to success in higher education (ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, military service, rural area, foster care system, experience with homelessness, and family education).
- **Short Answer/Essay Questions**:
    1. How do you see yourself engaging with or bringing value to the Turner community? What do you hope to gain from your membership in the Turner community?
    2. How will you, your academic research, or your clinical work contribute to the diversity, inclusion, and access within your field?

3. Why is the advancement of historically underrepresented and underserved groups in higher education important?

4. What leadership, service, volunteer, and/or community-building experiences have you had? We are interested in formal and informal experiences.

5. ***Required by SUNY*** Please describe how you've engaged, facilitated, and/or enhanced diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in your campus and/or local community. Examples could include personal, academic, and/or work experience and may include, but is not limited to, your potential to contribute to enhancing diversity efforts in your academic programs at SUNY and campus communities; experiences overcoming economic, social, and educational disadvantages, and/or other barriers.

Departments are welcome to share these questions with the nominee(s) in advance so they can prepare their answers as early as possible. Please note that **nominees will receive an emailed link to enter the information into the application portal directly**.

Contact information

If you encounter problems compiling or sending the electronic nomination package, please contact Rosalia Davi, Turner Program Manager, at (631) 632-1385 or TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu.