

**Position:** Montgomery Leadership Program Graduate Assistantship, 12 month appointment

**Program:** Montgomery Leadership Program

**Department Contact:** Student Leadership &  
Community Engagement  
55 Magruder St, 313 Moseley Hall

Carmen Wilder  
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The Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement (SLCE) is seeking one 12-month Graduate Assistant to work with their student leadership programs and primarily with the Montgomery Leadership Program. The Montgomery Leadership Program (MLP) is a 3-semester program for sophomores, juniors, & seniors in undergraduate school. Prospective MLP students apply each fall, and if admitted, our students commit to a three-semester class developing leadership skills by using the Social Change Model of leadership and community-engaged learning. (MLP) is a three-semester program designed for college students enrolled at Mississippi State University who have completed at least one year of college and are in good academic standing. Interested applicants undergo an application and interview process during the fall semester of the academic year and begin the following spring semester. Therefore, MLP students are selected solely based on their academic, leadership, and character traits. There is no fee to join, but rather students willing to undergo the three-semester challenge may be admitted and upon acceptance, receive a scholarship each of the three semesters. For the next three semesters, the MLP students, who are called "Fellows," learn leadership skills and strategies through a number of different channels while actively engaging in their community through service to others. For this they receive two credit hours each semester and the opportunity to enhance their lives as well as those around them by working to be the next greatest generation of servant-leaders.

Each year we accept approximately 35-40 students into the MLP. Our student demographics are approximately: 64% female, 36% male, 20% African American, 4.5% Asian, 69% Caucasian, 4.5% Hispanic, and 2% Multi-Racial. Each year, the Fellows work with approximately 30 different service agencies and organizations providing aid in a variety of capacities to people of all ages, races, and backgrounds. Consequently, our student demographics reflect the demographics of the surrounding population, providing a group of motivated students from varying backgrounds with an intense readiness to learn—continually.

During the first semester of the students' participation in MLP, the Fellows learn about leadership theory and their personal leadership styles through classroom instruction and activities, seminars from local and national leaders, and community service. The second semester, the Fellows continue their leadership studies through classroom instruction and activities, seminars from local and national leaders, community service, and by participating as peer mentors and "project managers" for a group of freshmen students completing community service in the Day One Leadership Program. The Fellows' role as peer mentors and project managers is critical to their formation as leaders. In this, they are able to actively practice leading a group while under the guidance and supervision of university professionals. The third and final semester, the Fellows are able to continue their leadership studies and community service by creating and implementing service initiatives of their own. In this final semester, the Fellows are able to fulfill their own dreams and passions of service to others.

Throughout the program, the Fellows build on their strengths as leaders and further learn the value of community engagement and service through action oriented learning. For further information about MLP, check out our website at <http://www.mlp.msstate.edu>.

#### **Qualifications**

- Competent mentoring & teaching skills
- Organized and detail oriented
- Clear & open communication with diverse groups of students & faculty/staff
- Strong writing & public speaking / presentation skills
- Self-motivated and self-directed as well as communicative team player

## Responsibilities

1. Recruit students for the Montgomery Leadership Program;
2. Develop, maintain and organize application and selection process for MLP applicants each year;
3. Assist in curriculum development;
4. Plan and organize Fall & Spring semester MLP retreats;
5. Teach Montgomery Leadership Program students in both formal & informal settings;
6. Mentor, observe and supervise MLP students in their service work/special projects;
7. Work with, mentor & guide MLP students with specific academic, leadership and personal development needs as needed and in individually scheduled semester evaluation meetings;
8. Plan and organize large scale events for the Montgomery Leadership Program (i.e. banquets, service trips) & assist in event planning for other leadership programs;
9. Take ownership of an assigned "focus area" of work in addition to regular responsibilities such as annual alternative spring break trip to the Mississippi Delta during MSU's spring break, interfaith dialogue, or leadership conference; and
10. Clerical and other duties as they relate to student leadership development and community-engaged learning.

## How to Apply or Request More Information

Carmen Wilder, Assistant Director of Student Leadership & Community Engagement

Email: [cwilder@saffairs.msstate.edu](mailto:cwilder@saffairs.msstate.edu), 662-325-1482

*Qualified applicants selected for an interview will be required to present on their topic of choice related to student leadership development and/or college student success.*

## Compensation

100% out of state waiver & 71% in-state tuition + fees remission

Monthly stipend ~\$943

## Additional Information

*This position requires a minimum 1-year commitment and admission into graduate school at MSU with a 2-year commitment preference. **Currently, this position is being offered with a preferred start date of June 1, 2019.*** Graduate students pursuing studies in the following areas of student affairs, counselor education, communication, educational leadership, public policy, education, psychology or sociology are preferred. Most importantly, prospective graduate assistants must possess a strong work ethic and interest in student and community development, community-engaged learning and leadership.

Occasional night, early morning and weekend work will be required at various times during the year (special events, summer orientation, fall/spring academic insight days, etc.). The graduate assistant may also participate in professional conferences, some requiring overnight travel. SLCE is seeking a professional who is able to work independently as well as collaboratively with others.

## Disclaimer

Discrimination based on race, color, ethnicity, sex (including pregnancy & gender identity), religion, national origin, disability, age sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran and/or any other status protected by state or federal law is prohibited in all employment decisions.