



**BLACKBURN**  
**INSTITUTE**

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Summer Mentorship Experience  
Mentor Information Session



The mission of the Blackburn Institute is to develop a network of diverse leaders who understand the challenges facing the state of Alabama and the nation and who are committed to serving as agents of positive change.



# Program Overview

- The Blackburn Institute's Summer Mentorship Experience is an opportunity for students to work directly with a mentor from the Blackburn community to address the needs of Alabama communities through research, direct service, and/or public policy.
- Funded summer projects may be located in Alabama or Washington, DC and span 4 to 12 weeks between May and July.
- Mentors must be current members of the Blackburn Institute's Advisory Board, a member of the Blackburn Society, or a Blackburn Fellow that was *pinned in spring 2013 or earlier*.

# Mentor Benefits

- Develop a meaningful mentor relationship with Blackburn student
- Engage with a Blackburn student on work related to an issue of importance to Alabama
- Take action to improve the state through a work product developed for a community partner
- Receive support from a Blackburn advisor before, during, and after the placement
- Interact and share experience with other Blackburn mentors

# Paths to Involvement

1. Write and submit a project proposal address a topic of interest to you. Students will be able to review these proposals and request a match, based on their areas of interest. Proposal application was posted January 27, 2017.

*Proposal Deadline: February 20, 2017*

2. Review proposals submitted by students and request a match, based on your areas of expertise and interest. Proposals are posted March 1, 2017.

*Match Request Deadline: March 19, 2017*

**Prospective mentors proposing their own projects have a greater chance of getting matched with a student.**

# Mentor Commitments

- Participate in a one-hour pre-project meeting with Blackburn advisor and student
- Meet consistently (at least once a week) in-person with student
- Participate in summer video conferences with other mentors
- Provide an appropriate work space for students to complete the project
- Participate in a one-hour post-project meeting with Blackburn advisor and mentor
- Attend poster session at Annual Symposium on August 25, 2017

# Eligibility

- Mentors
  - Current members of the Blackburn Institute's Advisory Board, a member of the Blackburn Society, or a Blackburn Fellow that was *pinned in spring 2013 or earlier*.
  - Present in the community where the student will be working
- Project
  - Is a research, direct service, and/or public policy project
  - Provides substantive work (20 hours/week) for 4 to 12 weeks
  - Will be implemented in Alabama or Washington, DC
  - Generates a work product that addresses the needs of Alabama communities by August 1
  - Includes the formal presentation of a work product to a community partner by August 11

# Project Proposals

Well-written project proposals will address each of the following components:

- Issue or community need to be addressed, along with data support the need for action
- Plan of action that details the activities in which the student will be engaged
- Timeline for implementation of the project
- Itemized budget (if requesting funding for project expenses)
- Anticipated work product that will be generated



# Important Deadlines

- February 20 – Deadline for submission of project proposals
- March 19 – Deadline to request matches
- March 30 – Deadline to accept/decline placements
- April 28 – Deadline for Learning Objectives Agreement
- August 1 – Deadline for completion of project
- August 11 – Deadline to present work product to community partner

# Contact Information

## **Blackburn Institute**

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