

**Know Your Issue Training**

**PolicyOptions Issue Briefs**

**National, State & Local Bureaus**

## **2020 Bonner Summer Service Opportunity: Know Your Issue Research and Planning**

### **Overview**

Are you interested in understanding more about the issue you are working on through service? Are you interested in public policy and uncovering long-term or proven solutions for the issues we face? Do you enjoy leading conversations about how we can solve the problems facing our communities?

Join us for a Bonner Foundation-led summer service project that builds on the “[Know Your Issue](#)” modules found on the Bonner wiki. We are looking for students from across the Bonner Network, ideally two or more per campus, who will: a) research and write local issue briefs related to their service, b) post their research on the [PolicyOptions Wiki](#) as part of a local policy information hub, and c) prepare to lead other Bonners next year in further policy research and discussion forums.

**This summer project will begin the week of May 25th** and will include regular trainings, team planning, and group discussions led by the Bonner Foundation President Bobby Hackett. Interns will gain experience in researching issue briefs, interviewing leaders of local and national organizations, and editing the PolicyOptions Wiki. We will develop video tutorials, lesson assignments, and discussion prompts. We will be using an online platform called the [Bonner Learning Community](#) to stay in touch and to build and deliver the Know Your Issue curriculum online.

Participants do not need to have prior experience to be included in this initiative; the only qualification is enthusiasm and the willingness to work hard, try new things, and learn with others in a collaborative environment with other Bonner students, staff, and Foundation staff.

This remote summer service opportunity is open to any Bonner student who is eligible to complete summer service as part of their Bonner Scholar or Bonner Leader Program. If you have any questions about summer service requirements and funding, please contact your Bonner Program director or coordinator. Unfortunately, the Bonner Foundation does not have additional funding to support Bonners serving on this project this summer. However, it can be used for you as a summer internship if you already qualify for campus or program funding.

*If you are interested in learning more, please email Bobby Hackett at [rhackett@bonner.org](mailto:rhackett@bonner.org).*

## Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) We will set a goal to have the first Zoom orientation call the week of May 25. But, we will easily be able to incorporate other students who start after that because we will be building the training modules on the Bonner Learning Community as we go along. That means that new participants will be able to catch up by watching the instructional videos and guides, and do the related assignments, at their own pace.
- 2) To be successful, I am hoping that students working on this will be able to devote at least 8-10 hours per week to the project for at least 8 weeks. But, the more you can do the better. Each of you will work on all the pieces — researching issue briefs, building out your local and state bureau wiki pages, helping refine the training modules, and planning for how this can roll out at your school and community in the next academic year (regardless of how school is organized in the fall).
- 3) We will hold a daily Zoom check-in call as a group (and, because the announcement only went out this morning, I'm hoping more Bonners will join us). We'll also organize other ways to collaborate throughout each week using Basecamp, the Bonner Learning Community and, of course, shared docs, and the PolicyOptions wiki...oh, and email.
- 4) I'll be the primary supervisor, so I'll be the person who would sign any paperwork your school might require (e.g., community learning agreement, hour logs, etc.).
- 5) As I said in the announcement, we will be working together to figure out how this can work across the whole Bonner Network. So, we'll spend time doing the work, reflecting on what's working and not, and then making adjustments as we go along. If you like inventing new things while testing out the skills you've developed as a student and as a Bonner, you'll really enjoy the challenge. And, of course, we will all be working remotely so you'll need to be a self-starter but also someone who likes to work in a team with other students and me, and perhaps other Foundation staff and interns.

## How to Apply

If you're interested in doing this, check with your Bonner Director or Coordinator to make sure it's ok with them and find out what process they require (if any) to confirm you'll be part of the Know Your Issue Summer Project. Then, to apply formally, email [rhackett@bonner.org](mailto:rhackett@bonner.org) the answers to the following questions:

- a) when you can start, when you'll need to stop, and roughly how much time per week you can be involved,
- b) why this opportunity interests you and how it fits into what you've been doing so far or what you hope to do more of as a Bonner
- c) what issue area(s) most interest you and why
- d) any special skills or experiences you've had that might be helpful to us this summer.

We will use that information to begin building out our weekly plan and how we'll organize ourselves this summer.