



A Webinar Series:
Mobilizing for Communities, Racial Justice, and Equity
Open to All Campuses

Overview

The Bonner Foundation is pleased to announce a special opportunity, designed especially for students (and staff) who are working to lead initiatives to use Bonner funds to promote racial justice, address current challenges and issues, and strengthen their communities. This series of webinars, intended to support students to leverage their Bonner Community Fund, Bonner Racial Justice Community Fund, and other local resources and assets, will provide a space for student leaders to engage in learning from each other and from recognized leaders at a variety of nonprofit, government, and activist organizations.

Through a series of web-based seminars, students will gain confidence, direction, and skills in program and project design and management. They will also sharpen their awareness about how to build diversity, inclusion, equity, and anti-racist practices into their work, regardless of its focus. Additionally, students will expand their networks and gain connections and ideas that will help them succeed. We hope to engage guest speakers from a range of relevant local and national organizations.

Objectives

- Learn, discuss, apply, and refine approaches to designing and managing projects, building coalitions, mobilizing people, and other leadership skills.
- Engage in dialogue and reflection with a group of peers from around the country and leaders from nonprofit, government, and activist organizations.
- As students are leading their own efforts (using the Racial Justice and Bonner Community Funds), they will gain allies, support, ideas, and ways to address challenges.

Enrollment and Expectations

While each webinar will be open to students across the network, the Bonner Foundation especially seeks 15-20 individuals who will commit to be a part of this Community of Practice and webinar series throughout the 2020-2021 year. This opportunity is especially relevant for students who are funded through the Bonner Racial Justice Community Fund. The commitment involves:

- Having an idea that students are working on back on campus and in their communities (ideally using the Racial Justice Community Fund, Bonner Community Fund, and/or other resources)
- Participate in eight monthly seminars (which will be scheduled in advance for all to participate);

Benefits of Participating

The Bonner Foundation hopes to support students to succeed in their innovative projects. This webinar series is also intended to provide leadership development around critical issues facing our communities, nation, and world. Benefits will include:

- A public profile (photo, biography, and recognition of work) on the Bonner Foundation's website and printed materials
- At least one professional coaching conversation with a staff member from another institution or organization in the field
- Recognition as a part of a national fellowship program and a formal endorsement by staff members of one's work on LinkedIn
- The opportunity to reflect on, write about, and publish a summary of one's project in Bonner publication
- Students can tie this series with their Bonner Program service work and count project work and time participating in webinar series for hours

Format

The format for participating in this webinar series will be fairly simple. Participants will be a part of a private webinar within the Bonner Learning Community, an online platform, where they can post ideas and questions, exchange information, and engage with each other. Each month, participants will join a 60-90 minute webinar. Webinars

will alternate between a focus on project design and management, with students using their own projects as a focus, and engaging with organizational leaders (especially from organizations that students are partnering with and/or from Bonner Partners) such as:

- Black Lives Matter Global Network and chapters (<https://blacklivesmatter.com/>)
- Color of Change (<https://colorofchange.org/>)
- Equal Justice Initiative (<https://eji.org/>)
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) (<https://www.naacp.org/>)
- Intergroup Relations (a model for a student-focused social justice education program from the University of Michigan; <https://igr.umich.edu/>)
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (<https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/>)
- Sustained Dialogue Institute (an organization that provides training and support for teams working deeply on an issue; <https://sustaineddialogue.org/>)
- United We Dream (<https://unitedwedream.org/>)
- Other organizations affiliated with the work of Bonner Alumni
- Students may also be introduced to excerpts from particular books, articles, videos, podcasts, etc. like *How to Be an Anti-Racist*, *The Inner Work of Racial Justice*, and others

Draft of Monthly Topics (October 2020 to June 2021)

Please note that students (and other participants) may join this series even before they have finalized their project ideas. It is designed to support participants to do so.

- **October 19 at 3 pm EST:** Planning and consulting session for students working on proposals. Foundation staff will introduce the Bonner Learning Community platform, Bonner Connect, fundraising features, project management frameworks, and more.
- **November 16 at 3 pm EST:** Panel and dialogue with guest speakers from some of the national and local organizations, especially highlighting how to find and build a partnership and manage to a budget.
- **December 21 at 3 pm EST (or may be moved earlier):** A supportive check in and dialogue across peers about progress on projects. Students will have a chance to revisit and sharpen their goals and timelines, drawing on curriculum in project management and action planning.

- **January 19 at 3 pm EST:** Panel and dialogue with guest speakers from local and national organizations on how to build and sustain coalitions and integrate anti-racist and equity practices into any project. We will also profile examples of successful task forces, working groups, and other structures for these projects.
- **February 16 at 3 pm EST:** A supportive check in and space for students to share wins and accomplishments and build momentum, as well as tips for strategies for how to sustain and expand efforts through mobilizing other supporters.
- **March 15 at 3 pm EST:** Panel and dialogue with guest speakers from local and national organizations on how to document your work, telling your story in an inspiring way, and demonstrate the impact you're having. Plus, we'll focus on the opportunity for students to create profiles and resources for a Bonner website/publication (writing, photos, social media, videos, etc.)
- **April 19 at 3 pm EST:** Showcase of projects, as well as discussion and preparation for students to showcase their work nationally through workshops for the 2021 Bonner Summer Leadership Institute.
- **May 17 at 3 pm EST:** Tools for transitioning leadership and planning for the coming year; reapplying, finalizing related Bonner website and publication profiles.

Instructors and Guest Speakers

This series will be led by Arthur Tartee Jr. and Ariane Hoy at the Bonner Foundation, each of whom brings rich experience and knowledge in project design and management, diversity, inclusion, and equity work.

Additionally, each webinar will involve guest speakers with relevant knowledge and experience to the topic, including at the campus level. Through Bonner Connect, we will also seek relevant alumni who can join some of the webinars as guest speakers. We may also invite 1-2 alumni to play a special role in designing and facilitating the series. Examples of speakers, from the organizations and alumni network, might include:

- Dante Barry, Founder of a Million Hoodies Movement for Justice
- Josh Blair, Operations Manager at Chicago Votes
- Rhonda Fitzgerald, Managing Director of Sustained Dialogue Institute
- Michael Richardson, State Network Manager at National Skills Coalition
- Tony Richardson, Executive Director of the Nord Foundation

Over the coming few weeks, we will identify other speakers and build out this list, with the aims of offering the first webinar by October (and in tandem with receiving proposals).

How to Join the Cohort

Prepare a short (less than one-page) email to the following two questions:

1. What do you hope to learn or gain from participating in monthly webinars with other student leaders and representatives from local and national organizations working to advance communities, equity, and justice?
2. What is the idea or vision for the project (using the Racial Justice Community Fund and/or Bonner Community Funds, or other local resources) that you hope to work on this year?

Email your interest and question responses by October 18, 2020 (note: Racial Justice proposals are also due to the Bonner Foundation on that day) to:

Arthur Tartee Jr., Bonner Alumni Network Manager
Ariane Hoy, Vice President

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