Program Overview

The Lyman Briggs SUTL Fellows program is a collaboration between LBC and the MSU Graduate School. Its primary goals are to provide a diverse group of graduate students committed to undergraduate education with: a) experience conducting mentored research on undergraduate teaching and learning; b) familiarity with contemporary instruction and assessment techniques; and c) professional and career development opportunities related to undergraduate education. Meeting these goals will result in Fellows who can make meaningful contributions to undergraduate education as practitioners of contemporary scholarly pedagogical methods, as well as contribute to scholarship related to undergraduate teaching and learning. The Program’s secondary goal is to support LBC faculty (tenure system and academic specialist) engaged in teaching and learning research.

Graduate students selected for this full-year (12 month) program will work with an LBC faculty member on a new or existing disciplinary-based education research (DBER), scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL), or action research (AR) project. We envision DBER/SoTL/AR broadly, including developing and assessing various curricular interventions, assessing student learning and the factors that affect such learning, evaluating the success of classroom innovations (e.g., inquiry-based labs, interdisciplinary teaching and learning, teaching with case studies), and efforts to increase the retention and success of a diverse STEM population. Please see previous year’s project descriptions: SUTL Project Descriptions. Each SUTL Fellow will work closely with their LBC faculty mentor to contribute to a new or existing DBER/SoTL/AR project, and will be encouraged and supported to disseminate project results via peer reviewed journals, conferences, and pedagogy-related websites.

In addition to the mentored SUTL project, Fellows participate in bi-weekly activities with other fellows. These activities are organized by the Director and include: (1) sharing in-progress SUTL research with other Fellows; (2) meeting faculty members, outside speakers, and other students to discuss topics related to undergraduate education; (3) participating in professional development activities and workshops. These professional development activities represent a broad range of teaching and learning topics and complement activities offered by other MSU Graduate Fellowship Programs (FAST, JMC IIT, RCAH Fellows).

2018-2019 SUTL Fellow and Mentor Selection Process

LBC SUTL faculty mentors will: (1) be matched with a SUTL Fellow who will work with them for a year on a new or existing SoTL/DBER/AR project (~5 hrs/wk for 12 months, free to the LBC faculty member); (2) receive $1500 to help support their teaching and learning efforts; and (3) increase their engagement with graduate students and faculty engaged in SoTL/DBER/AR. We anticipate selecting 6-8 Fellows for the 2018-2019 year, some of whom will be in their second year of the program. Fellow and Mentor applications are being accepted during a one-month window (February 26-March 26; Fellow RFP and Application attached FYI). Although graduate students in any MSU department are eligible, preference will be given to students in fields or with experiences that match LBC mentor research in STEM, STEM education, HPS, or HPS of Science education.

LBC faculty members with an interest in serving as a 2018-2019 SUTL Mentor should email Kendra Spence Cheruvelil (ksc@msu.edu) by March 26, 2018. Please use the subject line "SUTL Mentor" and include the following information as a single attachment: a title and brief (1 paragraph) description of the DBER/SoTL/AR research project that a Fellow would work on, a list of the any other collaborators on the project (names and affiliations), a 1-3 sentence description of how specifically a Fellow would be involved in the research (i.e., the responsibilities you can see giving a Fellow), and a preference for when the Fellow would start their year working with you (May 16, 2018 or August 16, 2018). Prospective SUTL mentors will be a part of the Fellow selection process to ensure a compatible match between Fellow and Mentor. The Fellow-Mentor selection process will be completed by mid-April. Selected Mentors are encouraged to attend the 2017-2018 Fellows Poster Symposium that is 4-6pm on April 19, 2018.