



Southern Education Foundation, Inc.

## 2010 Southern Education Leadership Initiative Foundation and Non-Profit Sector Internships

The Southern Education Foundation (SEF), [www.southerneducation.org](http://www.southerneducation.org), is the South's oldest education philanthropy, tracing its origins back to 1867. Its mission is to advance equity and excellence in education for low income students and communities in the South, the region that is home to 40 percent of the nation's poor people. The South has the lowest levels of education attainment and achievement, the highest drop out rates and provides the least need-based financial aid for higher education. It has the greatest need for new leaders to develop corrective public policies and practices to improve education quality and opportunity at all levels. Education, the great equalizer, is the means to advance economic growth, strengthen democratic values and participation, and improve everyone's quality of life.

Recognizing the need to develop new outstanding leaders in education, philanthropy and the non profit sector, SEF has initiated a unique "Southern Education Leadership Initiative." The Initiative exposes highly motivated and diverse upperclassmen and graduate students enrolled in Southern colleges and universities to information about contemporary education issues and provides them with seven week internships in leading organizations concerned with equity and excellence in education. Since 2004, 103 students have been placed at non profit organizations such as CARE USA, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, College of Charleston, Clark Atlanta University, Center for Women Policy Studies, Georgia Pacific Foundation, Jessie Ball DuPont Fund, Assisi Foundation, Foundation for the Mid South, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Southern Regional Education Board, and the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. SEF is exposing the next generation of leaders to opportunities to use their talents in service to the public interest.

Interns are selected through a competitive process—only the most talented and committed will be able to participate. Each intern is required to participate in a pre-placement orientation meeting in Atlanta, undertake an independent project during the course of his/her internship, and present lessons learned from the internship at a closing meeting in Atlanta.

Interns receive:

- an opportunity to work for seven weeks in an organization doing outstanding work in education, e.g., a policy institution, community-based organization or philanthropic institution;
- a living expense stipend of \$3,000 (for undergraduates or graduating seniors), or \$3,500 (for graduate students completing their first year), as well as travel expenses to visit the Southern Education Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia, for orientation and closing activities;
- exposure to research in the field, practical experience and opportunities to meet and work with outstanding and inspiring leaders involved in education policy and practice;
- an opportunity to develop a project – website, presentation or publication of his/her own design – to share with other students at his/her campus following the summer experience.

For more information, please visit:

[www.southerneducation.org](http://www.southerneducation.org)

⇒ **Brown vs. Brown**

⇒ **Education Summer Internship Program**

# Application Process

*The Southern Education Foundation has a history of promoting top quality and diverse leadership in education by helping to prepare future leaders to make a difference. The Southern Education Leadership Initiative helps to connect tomorrow's leaders with today's advocates for education. SEF welcomes candidates for the internship through both nomination and direct application. Interns will be selected through a competitive process.*

## Eligibility Requirements

- Completion of a minimum of 90 credit hours (equivalent of junior status & above in undergraduate program) or enrollment in a graduate program, or law program at a college or university in the South.
- Familiarity with or interest in social justice or education policy and practice.
- Excellent interpersonal, writing, and analytical skills, with flexibility to respond well to diverse people, settings, and tasks.
- Completion of the application.

Students must complete the application form and submit it and all attachments (postmarked) to the Southern Education Foundation no later than **March 19, 2010**. Incomplete applications or submissions beyond the deadline will not be accepted. Applications will be reviewed, and the most promising and deserving students for the internship opportunity will be selected based on campus involvement, community service, a written personal statement, short-answer questions, academic achievement and two letters of recommendation.

## To Apply

Complete and return the following:

- Signed application form
- Transcript
- Resume
- Personal statement
- Short-answer question
- Two letters of recommendation with contact information **sent directly from reference\***

*\*If you are formally nominated for the internship you will be required to submit only one additional letter of recommendation.*

## Program Timeline

<u>March 19, 2010</u>	<u>April 19, 2010</u>	<u>June 9-11, 2010</u>	<u>June 14–July 30, 2010</u>	<u>August 2-4, 2010</u>
All applications and nominations must be submitted (postmarked) to SEF	Internship recipients announced	Internship Orientation in Atlanta, Georgia	Internship at placement site	Internship Closing in Atlanta, Georgia

*Mail Applications to:*

**2010 Southern Education Leadership Initiative**  
**Applications and materials must be postmarked by March 19, 2010**

*Southern Education Foundation*  
**2010 Southern Education Leadership Initiative**  
*135 Auburn Avenue N.E., Second Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30303*

**For questions contact:** Katherine Dunn, Program and Research Fellow  
**Phone:** 404-523-0001 x107  
**E-Mail:** KDunn@southerneducation.org

**2010 Southern Education Leadership Initiative Application**  
**Applications and materials must be postmarked by March 19, 2010**

*Southern Education Foundation*  
*135 Auburn Avenue N.E., Second Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30303*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  Female  Male

How did you hear about the internship?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Contact Information:** Valid until (month /day /year) \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent Contact Information:**

Street Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ethnic Background:** *(Please check all that apply)*

African American     Latino/a     Pacific Islander     Caucasian

Asian American     Native American     Other (Specify)

**Areas of Interest:**

Please indicate your primary areas of interest:

Education Policy     Education Administration     Philanthropy

Teaching     Community/ Non-Profit

You may list specific field(s) of interest:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Undergraduate/Graduate Education:**

Please list all institutions, current and most recent first:

College/University: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2010 Southern Education Leadership Initiative Application

## **Resume:**

**Please submit a resume that includes information about your:**

- Education
  - Employment/Internships
  - Community Service
  - Honors, Awards & Achievements
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## **Personal Statement:**

**Please submit a statement of purpose of 2-3 pages addressing the following:**

1. What is one education issue in your community, state, region or nation that you believe strongly needs to be solved? Why?
  2. Your career goals and how your background (family, community, education, life/work experiences) has influenced those goals.
  3. How you think participating in the Southern Education Leadership Initiative will help you build the necessary skills/experience to achieve those goals, especially in relation to low income and/or minority students in the South.
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## **Short-Answer Question:**

**Please respond to one of the following questions (maximum 300 words):**

1. Describe a change you would propose in education policy or practice.
2. Describe a project you would design to address issues of education inequality and inadequacy.

I certify that the statements in this application and all supporting materials are accurate and complete. I hereby allow the release of this information to the Southern Education Foundation for the purpose of review for participation in the Southern Education Leadership Initiative. If I am accepted into the program, I authorize SEF to periodically obtain updated contact information from schools I have attended, now or in the future.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Applications must be postmarked by **March 19, 2010:***

**The Southern Education Foundation**  
**2010 Southern Education Leadership Initiative**  
135 Auburn Avenue N.E., Second Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**For questions contact:** Katherine Dunn, Program and Research Fellow  
**Phone:** 404-523-0001 x107  
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