



## Rennie Center Research Fellowship

The Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy's mission is to improve public education through well-informed decision-making based on deep knowledge and evidence of effective policymaking and practice. As Massachusetts' preeminent voice in public education reform, we create open spaces for educators and policymakers to consider evidence, discuss cutting-edge issues, and develop new approaches to advance student learning. Through our staunch commitment to independent, non-partisan research and constructive conversations, we work to promote an education system that provides every child with the opportunity to be successful in school and in life. For more information on the organization, visit [www.renniecenter.org](http://www.renniecenter.org).

### Overview

The Rennie Center is offering a unique opportunity for graduate-level researchers to partner with the Rennie Center on the production and dissemination of research. The outcome of the fellowship will be a public report for a policy audience. The fellow will serve as the lead author and will receive an award of \$5,000.

Working in partnership with the Rennie Center's research team, the fellow will lead the development of a brief exploring the following question:

*How can Massachusetts schools reimagine the role of the high school teacher to support the expansion of college and career pathways (early college, innovation pathways, etc.)?*

The fellow will be responsible for the following activities:

- Conducting background research on staffing models in high schools that support students to attain an associate degree or industry-recognized credential by graduation
- Conducting interviews with high schools inside and outside Massachusetts with existing pathways programs to understand:
  - The process of shifting staff roles/expectations to accommodate pathway expansion
  - Barriers that schools have faced in expanding pathway programs (financial, policy, collective bargaining, etc.)
  - Effective practices in pathway program expansion
- Identifying evidence-based recommendations for reimagining the high school teacher role, with an emphasis on recommendations that support teacher retention/the sustainability of the teaching profession
- Serving as the lead author of the written findings report designed for a policy audience

The fellow will be responsible for scheduling a weekly 30-minute check in with the Rennie Center project lead throughout the duration of the fellowship.



### **Benefits of Participation**

Individuals selected for the Rennie Center Research Fellowship will receive the following through their participation:

- Ongoing support and guidance from an experienced team of researchers within the Rennie Center;
- Access to Rennie Center media and distribution channels for final research products (e.g., email list, social media, potential for additional media outreach); and
- A stipend of \$5,000 in exchange for producing one publishable research product

### **Selection Criteria**

Candidates for the Rennie Center Research Fellowship should demonstrate the following traits:

- Self-starter able to work in a fast-paced environment and complete projects independently
- Strong familiarity with and experience applying qualitative research methods, including design, implementation, analysis, and reporting
- Creativity and flexibility in developing and designing research projects, particularly when it comes to methods for collecting data and presenting research findings
- Superb communication skills, with an emphasis on the ability to write clearly and concisely for an audience of policymakers and educators
- Passion for public education and an interest in the Rennie Center's work

While we encourage any individuals with a graduate degree or coursework in a relevant field to apply, the Rennie Center will be looking for the type of significant research experience most often found among individuals working toward a career in research or academia.

### **To Apply**

Email the following to Annelise Buzaid, Sr. Director of Research, at [abuzaid@renniecenter.org](mailto:abuzaid@renniecenter.org):

- Resume/CV
- Writing sample
- Written statement of no more than one page that responds to the following questions:
  - Why are you interested in becoming a Research Fellow?
  - What is your experience with qualitative research methods?
  - Why are you interested in conducting research focused on reimagining the role of the high school teacher?

*The Rennie Center is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from people of color, persons with disabilities, and LGBT applicants. This Fellowship description is subject to change at any time.*