



WHITE-RILEY-PETERSON POLICY FELLOWSHIP

Empowering Afterschool Policy Leaders,
Transforming the Lives of Young People

Made possible by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation





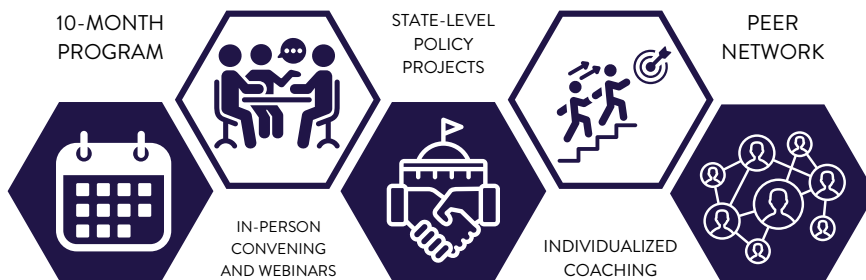
“I describe the WRP fellowship as the best professional learning experience I have taken part in. The bonds that are formed, the content that is delivered, and the expert facilitation is what has made the program so successful.”

-FELLOW SURVEY RESPONSE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The White-Riley-Peterson Policy Fellowship (WRP) is a premier leadership development program dedicated to creating a diverse, influential network of leaders who advocate for policies that improve afterschool and summer learning opportunities. The WRP Fellowship equips participants with the knowledge, tools, and connections to drive policy change, enhance programs, and expand access to quality educational opportunities for youth across the United States.

FELLOWSHIP STRUCTURE AT A GLANCE



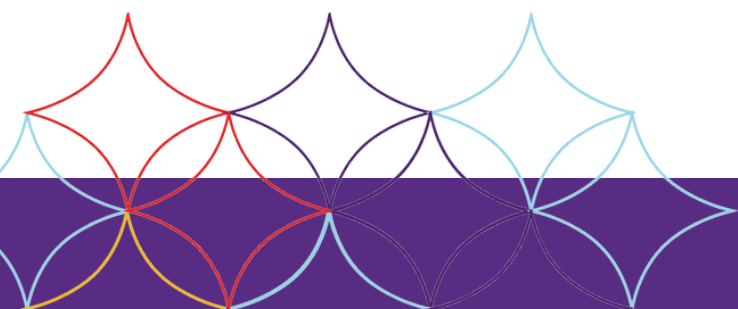
WHY OUR WORK MATTERS

The WRP Fellowship is a vital resource for nurturing strong leaders who are dedicated to advancing afterschool and expanded learning policies. The fellowship’s unique focus on state-level advocacy and policy development ensures it plays a key role in shaping national discussions about afterschool programs and youth development. Through intensive training, expert mentorship, and collaborative learning, fellows are empowered to:

- **Advocate** for sustainable funding for afterschool and summer learning programs
- **Develop** and implement policies that strengthen state networks and build capacity
- **Collaborate** with peers, mentors, and policymakers to drive effective solutions for youth and families

The WRP Fellowship bridges critical gaps in policy leadership by empowering individuals to become change-makers who advocate for systemic improvements that impact the lives of millions of students.

By equipping fellows with the skills and network necessary to address the evolving needs of youth, the fellowship drives long-lasting change in the afterschool and expanded learning sector.



93%

of fellows report a significant increase in their knowledge of state policy-making

79%

of fellows feel better equipped to speak publicly about afterschool and summer learning programs



71%

of fellows noted enhanced ability to engage in policy discussions

“[The fellowship] has allowed me to form critical support networks among my fellowship colleagues across the country from Alaska to Alabama, interact with key state and national leaders, and receive valuable mentorship from major movers and shakers in the field. This is a truly unique experience in achieving great goals with fervor and loud, empowered voices.”

– FELLOW SURVEY RESPONSE



WIDESPREAD REACH

The over 200 fellows that have participated in WRP have affected the lives of millions of youth in all 50 states through their policy work and advocacy.



ADVOCACY SUCCESS

Fellows have been instrumental in securing critical funding for afterschool programs, including the expansion of 21st Century Community Learning Centers and other state-level initiatives.



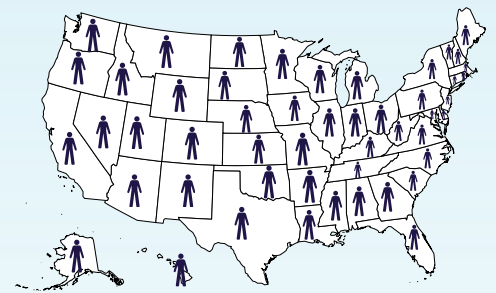
NATIONAL NETWORK

The fellowship connects participants with a robust, national network of professionals, fostering long-term relationships that support ongoing advocacy and professional growth.



ALUMNI IMPACT

Alumni have gone on to take leadership positions at the state and national levels, influencing policy decisions and expanding access to high-quality afterschool programs.



209

FELLOWS REPRESENTING ALL 50 STATES

87.5%

OF ALUMNI REMAIN ACTIVE IN THE AFTERSCHOOL AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FIELD



MEET A FELLOW **SHERONDA WITTER**

U.S. Department of Education

“The fellowship’s significance lies in bringing together passionate cohort members serving in out-of-school time across the nation. The fellowship provides every fellow with additional tools for their toolbox, regardless of their role within the field [of afterschool and summer learning]. Simply put, the fellowship enhances the advocacy skills of individuals who already possess immense passion and an unwavering commitment to the field.”

How has the WRP Fellowship strengthened your ability to advocate for afterschool and summer programs at the state or national level?

I was eager to be a WRP Policy Fellow to connect with experts in the field nationally, gain an awareness and understanding of key legislation, and enhance my confidence in making the case for afterschool. I am excited to say that I can easily make the case for afterschool now, and I’m thankful to the WRP Policy Fellowship for that!

How did the fellowship contribute to building your professional credentials and capacities?

The WRP Policy Fellowship provides a network where fellows can connect with other fellows and field experts at the national level. The camaraderie and connectivity within the fellowship is second to none. Beyond that, the fellowship addressed a gap in my toolbox. I had an extensive background in youth development and education research and policy, but I lacked a deep understanding of out-of-school time policy. The fellowship filled that gap, and the 10-month experience, along with ongoing webinars, continually adds to my toolbox as it pertains to advocacy and policy for the out-of-school time field.

How impactful are the relationships and connections you made during the fellowship?

The WRP Policy Fellowship, now consisting of close to 200 fellows nationwide, is a network comprising state afterschool network staff, out-of-school time professionals, and education advocates. The fellowship, by design, cultivates lasting connections. In fact, I often have the opportunity to connect with WRP fellows at conferences and national convenings. WRP fellows are everywhere!

Reflecting on your broader impact, how important is the White-Riley-Peterson fellowship in advancing opportunities for young people across America?

Simply put, the fellowship enhances the advocacy skills of individuals who already possess immense passion and an unwavering commitment to the field. Additionally, the fellowship empowers fellows to advocate for the field by amplifying their voices and the voices of others. Ultimately, this amplification results in increased access to out-of-school time programs wherein students thrive!

