



THE ALABAMA SCHWEITZER FELLOWS PROGRAM

Founded in 2015, the Alabama Chapter, the 14th Chapter in the U.S. Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) national network, is dedicated to developing a corps of emerging professionals who enter the workforce with the skills and commitment necessary to address unmet health needs.

Alabama Schweitzer Fellows are competitively chosen from graduate student applicants in a variety of fields to address health disparities and the social determinants of health.

OUR MISSION

ASF is preparing the next generation of professionals who will serve and empower vulnerable people to live healthier lives and create healthier communities.



TRANSLATING PASSION AND IDEALISM INTO ACTION

Schweitzer Fellows partner with community-based organizations to develop, implement and evaluate yearlong, mentored 200-hour service projects. Simultaneously, while continuing their graduate studies, they participate in leadership development training and guided reflection to enhance their skills to effectively work with diverse, low-and-moderate-income people.

Over the course of a year, Fellows receive a stipend of \$2500 to underscore the importance of the work and to allow students with financial constraints to participate in the program.



INNOVATIVE PROJECTS ADDRESS DIVERSE HEALTH NEEDS

Schweitzer service projects are designed to have long-term impact on the health of underserved people and to create lasting relationships between professional schools, social service agencies and communities organizations. Fellows projects address a wide variety of health indicators. Recent examples include the following initiatives:

- Partnering with African American parents and the faith-based community to strengthen child well-being
- Developing a Hospitalization Guide to assist those seeking inpatient treatment for mental health care
- Launching a mentorship program for inner city high school students interested in healthcare careers
- Conducting medication reviews and health education for patients

receiving subsidized primary care

- Training staff and parents of students with developmental disabilities on emergency response skills, including AED use and CPR
- Expanding after school programming to include nutrition education and gardening to improve diet and increase physical activity
- Providing oral health counseling to improve the dental habits and reduce risks of disease

BUILDING CAPACITY, TOUCHING LIVES

Annually, about 300 Fellows provide more than 60,000 hours of service and partner with more than 250 community-based organizations. In Alabama, up to 16 Fellows will annually deliver over 3,000 total hours of service. Nationally, most of the Fellows' projects are sustained by being adopted into ongoing agency programs, incorporated as university service projects or established as nonprofit organizations.

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OUR FELLOWS SPEAK

“It is inspiring being around like-minded individuals that want to make simple and impactful changes in the community. I am encouraged to know that this experience, while an individual journey, is not one that I have to do on my own.”

– Aissatou Barry-Blocker, UAB School of Dentistry, 2016-2017 Fellow

“I have worked with children with autism before, but the more I meet with my site mentors, the more I learn about the population that I am working with. Every meeting or phone call, I am revising my plans, which has helped me learn to be flexible.”

–Taylor Pope, UAB School of Medicine, 2016-2017 Fellow

“The Fellowship surrounds me with people who bring such different insights into my project, who can provide me with information to further develop and implement the program.”

– A.T. Helix, UAB School of Public Health, 2016-2017 Fellow

Our Sponsors:

- UAB School of Medicine
- UAB School of Dentistry
- UAB School of Health Professions
- UAB School of Nursing
- UAB School of Public Health
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Samford University, College of Health Sciences



THE ALBERT
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