

THE WORKER INSTITUTE

ADVANCING WORKER RIGHTS AND COLLECTIVE REPRESENTATION

TO: Undergraduate Students

FROM: Prof. Kate Griffith, on behalf of the Worker Institute

SUBJECT: Worker Institute Undergraduate Research Fellows Program (2018-2019)

We invite you to apply for an Undergraduate Research Fellowship with the Worker Institute.

At its heart, the Worker Institute views its work as a contribution to reversing the growing inequality, now at historic levels, which undermines the economic and social sustainability of a vibrant democratic society. The Institute provides the nation's most comprehensive education, training, research, and organizational support for union leaders and worker advocates. Worker Institute research fellows, sometimes in small teams, will have the opportunity to work directly with Ithaca-based faculty and ILR labor extension faculty based in NYC, Rochester and Buffalo.

The fellowship program's goal is to provide ILR students with a unique opportunity to contribute to important projects concerning workers and unions, expand their research skills, learn about potential career paths and interact with faculty, labor leaders and other fellows.

Fellows will work 5-10 hours/week, paid at an hourly rate of \$13/hour. Awards will be made on a one-semester basis, with renewal possible for the second semester at the project supervisor's discretion.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES: Applications are due on or before **April 30, 2018**.

Please fill out the attached application form and email it, along with your resume and a writing sample, to Anne Sieverding (acs5@cornell.edu) by April 30, 2018.

The main selection criteria include a strong academic record and a demonstrated interest in one of the Worker Institute's research areas.

Award notifications for Fall 2018 fellows will be announced sometime in July 2018.

If you have any questions please email Kate Griffith (kg275@cornell.edu)

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FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION FORM: Due April 30, 2018

Please complete all three parts of the application and email it to Anne Sieverding (acs5@cornell.edu) by April 30, 2018. Also, please attach your resume and a writing sample.

Part I:

Name/Address/Email:

Cornell Class of:

Please indicate any languages other than English in which you are proficient:

Name and contact information of reference (ILR faculty member):

Part II: Please indicate which of the project(s) listed below you are interested in. If you are interested in more than 1, please designate your first choice with a “1”, second choice with a “2”, and so on:

_____ *“Men at Work” (and Family):* Caregiving Responsibilities among the Working Class – For a study of how men represented by New York state construction unions balance the demands of caregiving and paid work, fellows will help analyze needs assessment survey and transcribe and code interviews. – with Ileen DeVault and KC Wagner

_____ *2018 Labor Roundtable* – Student will work with faculty and staff to plan the execution of the 2018 Labor Roundtable event, set for Nov. 30, 2018. This will include selecting and inviting participants and working with COLA to advertise and carry out the event itself. – with Ileen DeVault, Risa Lieberwitz and Anne Sieverding

_____ *Research to support the Tompkins County living wage* – This fellow will be conducting research as part of a feasibility study for living wage legislation in Tompkins County, to identify potential problems and look at any data that help us to say how real those problems are. In this phase we will be conducting interviews with employers and workers to investigate some of these concerns, particularly concerning how employers will pay for a wage increase and the complex ways in which it could affect workers' incomes. – with Ian Greer

_____ *Research on the treatment of Working Women in Literature* – This fellow will conduct exploratory research that identifies and discusses the values underlying the treatment of working women in literature – with James Gross

_____ *Developing a 2nd edition of Health Hazard Manual for Cosmetologists, Hairdressers, Beauticians, and Barbers* – The Workplace Health and Safety Program of the Worker Institute wants a Fellow who can assist in preparing a 2nd edition of: Health Hazard Manual for Cosmetologists, Hairdressers, Beauticians, and Barbers, originally authored by Nellie J. Brown in 1986 – 1988. The Fellow would assist in research and compiling of the updated and expanded information, as well as preparing a marketing plan and outreach to potential users of the manual. A 2nd edition would offer many advantages: recent epidemiological studies, formulation changes and trends (such as “natural,” “organic,” “green,” “ethnic”), safer/lower hazard alternative formulations and toxics use reduction (such as alternatives to formaldehyde-based sterilants for cabinets; plant-based hair colors), new science on ingredients carrying risks to health and the environment that were little known or understood at the time of the first publication such as hormones, endocrine disrupters, breast carcinogens, and others. – with Nellie J. Brown, MS, CIH.

_____ *Labor Leading on Climate: Climate Jobs Program for New York State* – a policy, research and education initiative for New York unions, workers' organizations and their allies on labor-climate-employment issues, with a focus on how ambitious climate protection policy can drive job creation and economic development in New York State. The purpose of this initiative is to enhance the role of labor and working people in addressing the climate crisis. WI Fellows will conduct research to assist in the writing of New York State “climate jobs” policy papers that address topics like including job and training quality standards in energy efficiency and renewable energy work and exploring innovative financing models for climate mitigation activities. – with Lara Skinner <http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/workerinstitute/initiatives/labor-environment-and-sustainable-development.html>.

_____ *Impacts of the gig-economy and new technologies on workers and local communities* – This project involves applied research on the impacts of the gig-economy broadly defined to include non-standard work arrangements such as temporary and on-call work, and independent contracting. Among other issues, the research will examine the effects of digital hiring platforms such as Uber and Handy on working conditions and on the economy of local communities. – with Maria Figueroa

Part III: Please answer the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in this particular project? If you have indicated interest in more than one, please provide a brief description of your interest in each.
2. Please describe any relevant coursework, experiences, skills and abilities or anything else that you would bring to the project and make you a good candidate.
3. Will you be available to work up to 10 hours/week during the semester?