

## **Request for Proposals for the Sam and Bonnie Rechter Fellowships in Positive Leadership**

### **Fellowship Description**

The University of Louisville's Center for Positive Leadership (CPL) is requesting proposals for people to receive grants and become Fellows of the CPL for the 2024 calendar year. The purpose of the grant is for Fellows to conduct research on the topic of positive leadership. Examples of potential uses for the money include, but are not limited to, the purchase of needed materials, paying for research assistants, buying out a course so that there is more time to work on the project. It is expected that a two-page research report will be delivered to the Center for Positive Leadership at the end of the year as a result of the fellowship, and that the researchers will inform the Center when their research has been published in a peer-reviewed journal. The report will be published on the CPL website. Please also note some changes to our request and selection criteria below.

### **Project Mission**

The mission of the CPL is to increase positive leadership in the world.

One of the ways in which we pursue this mission is through sponsoring interdisciplinary research on positive leadership.

### **Definitions**

Positive leadership is an influence process in which (1) at least one person exhibits at least one virtue (such as courage, compassion, integrity, or humility) with more excellence than he or she would have exhibited if he or she had conformed to social expectations; (2) at least one other person feels admiration, elevation, gratitude, or awe, respect, or inspiration in response to that excellence, and (3) they follow by imitating, complying, or building on the first person's excellence. For a more detailed description, [click here](#).

People who occupy leadership positions may engage in positive leadership, but positive leadership is not limited to people who occupy hierarchical positions of authority. We are most interested in research that focuses on people pursuing excellence rather than ethical sufficiency, and leadership as a process that inspires people to follow as opposed to leadership as a position of authority that people occupy.

## Who May Apply

This request for proposals is open to all applicants, worldwide. We request that applicants include with their proposal a description of their qualifications for conducting the research they propose.

## How to Apply

Please submit a resume or curriculum vita and a written description of your proposed project to [rpmart01@louisville.edu](mailto:rpmart01@louisville.edu) by November 1, 2023. The description should be no more than two pages. It should describe:

1. The research you propose, including what form you expect the final outcome to take, why it is important, and what methods you intend to use to complete the research;
2. When you expect to complete the research;
3. Why you believe this research will help advance the Project's mission of increasing positive leadership in the world;
4. The likely outlet(s) for publication; and
5. Your qualifications for producing the output you are proposing.

## Selection Criteria

There are changes to our request this year. These changes include the number and size of the grants, and also the criteria for selection. In the past, we offered five grants of \$5,000. This year, the number of grants will not be determined in advance. Those who submit proposals may request grants between \$5,000 and \$25,000. If there is an ambitious project with exceptional promise, we will award the entire \$25,000 to that project. If there are multiple good projects, we may offer five for \$5,000, two for \$10,000 and one for \$5,000, or some other combination of awards and amounts. We do this to encourage researchers to pursue the best projects possible and to inspire us with their ideas. However, we will favor good projects for smaller amounts over ambitious projects that make large requests but that cannot convince us of the quality and impact of the research they propose. Therefore, we still encourage, and will select, smaller-but-well-designed projects if those show the right combination of asking interesting research questions with good research design.

Acceptance of applications will depend on the degree to which the proposed research projects advance the Project's mission, a committee's judgment of the qualifications of the applicant(s) for achieving their proposed goals, and the quality and innovativeness of the research proposed. Please be specific. Vague claims will be viewed less positively than concrete ones.

Also, this year, we will give additional preference to projects that address specific categories of research questions. Proposals that address these questions but do not meet our other criteria will not be chosen. However, if two proposals look like they will produce work of equal quality, but one of them addresses a question related to the ones listed below, the one that addresses the question below will be given preference.

Question: How does leading with [insert a virtue such as courage, humility, integrity, compassion, generosity, or others] help people to

- Reduce burnout and increase meaningfulness or engagement in the workplace?
- Reduce violence and increase peace in cities/communities?
- Improve equity and inclusion among diverse people in organizations?
- Improve equity and inclusion among diverse people in cities/communities?
- Enable strategic renewal in organizations?
- Enable better housing for people with few or no housing options in cities/communities?
- Come up with remote work options that both employees and their organizations?
- Find ways to use artificial intelligence in their organizations that benefit all stakeholders without privileging only some stakeholders?

### **Selection Process**

A committee will review requests and award the fellowships by December 1, 2023. Fellowships will begin January 1, 2024, and will continue throughout the calendar year of 2024.

Questions may be directed to Ramie Martin-Galijatovic at [rpmart01@louisville.edu](mailto:rpmart01@louisville.edu) or Ryan Quinn at [ryan.quinn@louisville.edu](mailto:ryan.quinn@louisville.edu).

### **Stipulations**

It is the expectation of the Center for Positive Leadership that research conducted as part of this fellowship should acknowledge the support of the Center and will also be acknowledged on the Center website.