



# SELI SOUTHERN EDUCATION LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

The Southern Education Leadership Initiative (SELI) is an intensive, eight-week, paid summer fellowship for emerging leaders interested in advancing racial equity and improving education across the pre-kindergarten to college continuum. Placed in nonprofits, school districts, or state education agencies in the South, SELI Fellows spend the summer developing as leaders, engaging with valuable stakeholders, and acquiring practical job skills through direct learning experiences.

A continuation of SEF's legacy of educating leaders in the South, which spans more than a century, SELI's 2004 launch marked the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision. Our initiative recognized that there is still important work to be done to ensure that all children, irrespective of race or class, receive an excellent education. Over SELI's tenure, talented and diverse young leaders have conducted important research, policy analysis, advocacy, and organizing efforts for over 100 partner organizations. SELI alum can be found today working as educators, policymakers, researchers, community organizers and committed civic leaders dedicated to improving the life chances of all children.



**“SEF’s SELI program gave me a life-changing opportunity to better myself and sow back into my community.”**

## STUDENT IMPACT



Inspired and advanced the capacity of 225 young professionals to speak and act knowledgeably about education equity issues by exposing them to rich experiential learning opportunities.

## PARTNER IMPACT



Enhanced the capacity of 100 organizations across the Southeast and Washington, D.C. to support progressive infrastructure and advance racially conscious policies.

## REGIONAL IMPACT



Expanded the South's talent pool and knowledge base, increasing access to human capital and fresh ideas centered on improving the quality of education for the region's students who need it most.





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Through career coaching, mentorship, networking, and practical skill-building opportunities, paired with experiences to sharpen a racial equity lens, SELI raises up a new generation of leaders and strategic thinkers by providing them with real-world opportunities to grow academically, professionally, and civically. Not only does the fellowship provide an unparalleled glimpse into diverse aspects of the education sector, but also insight into Fellows' own capacity for leadership in the field. SELI fellowships have been characterized as illuminating and even life-changing.

SELI fellowships also create value for placement sites, communities, and ultimately public school students. The work completed by SELI Fellows has major implications for their host organizations, and aims toward having a sustained impact on the communities served well after the fellowship concludes.



“Our Fellow sought out understanding of our philosophy and queried into the processes we have established. By doing so, they helped clarify the groundwork we have made and the ways we can improve upon it.”

—Debra Pane, President, E-SToPP, Florida



“Our Fellow brought unique perspective and knowledge into our education-related civil rights work. Their presence helped remind all of us of the critical link between legal advocacy, social science, and public policy.”

—Mark Dorosin, former Managing Attorney, UNC Center for Civil Rights, North Carolina



“SELI encouraged us to be innovative and diligent in our efforts to close the achievement gap. I am now working to reform educational opportunities for disadvantaged students.”

—Tyrone James, NC Central University, 2004 Cohort



“I have learned that it is my responsibility to produce and disseminate meaningful research to a broader policymaker and stakeholder audience about issues of education equity and policy.”

—Chloe Sikes, UT Austin, 2018 Cohort

## How to Get Involved

### CONTRIBUTE

Consider sponsoring a SELI Fellow and supporting their ability to carry out the important work of advancing education equity. Donate at [www.southerneducation.org/donate](http://www.southerneducation.org/donate)

### APPLY

Take advantage of this unique opportunity today! Undergraduate and graduate level students are encouraged to apply at [www.southerneducation.org/seli](http://www.southerneducation.org/seli)

### CONNECT

Whether you are a SELI alumni, a potential placement site, or interested in mentoring a SELI fellow, there are many ways to connect with the program. Please contact SEF to learn more about how you can get involved.

**“Through SELI, SEF is cultivating a constellation of rising leaders, strengthening their knowledge of, commitment to, and skills for advancing equitable education policy and practice.”**

—Kenita Williams, Director, Leadership Development, Southern Education Foundation

