



## **North Carolina Education Policy Fellowship Program**

### Overview

The North Carolina Education Policy Fellowship Program is the only statewide program of its kind that focuses on leadership and professional development in the context of education policy. Each new class continues the trend of high caliber participants and is rich in its members' range of experiences, both professionally and personally. Fellows come from public schools, higher education, community colleges, state agencies, and a diverse array of education organizations across North Carolina. Each class includes a cohort of Fellows who focus on education policy issues and the wide range of factors that influence education in North Carolina.

The program is designed for Fellows to learn about issues and perspectives in education that they don't always encounter in their daily work so that they can be more informed, rounded contributors to the critical education debates that shape the quality and focus of schools. Fellows increase their awareness of how public policy is made, learn whom the key players are in the formation of this policy, and become more confident and involved in the policy-making process. Leadership development is a key focus of the Education Policy Fellowship Program.

NC EPFP has graduated over 800 Fellows and has a rich network of alumni in North Carolina and nationally. North Carolina's program is one of 17 EPFP programs nationally, administered through the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC. The North Carolina program is routinely held up as an example for its strong curriculum, growing network of Fellows, and wide reach in North Carolina.

### Structure

NC EPFP is an immersive professional and leadership development experience. The cohort meets an average of once a month from October to April in varying learning formats, such as 2 day retreats, Tuesday evening sessions, and an annual trip to Washington, DC.

Fellows participate in a variety of program sessions over the course of the year, beginning with a two day Fall Retreat on the history and context for public education in North Carolina in October in Raleigh and a Winter Retreat in December in Boone. Fellows will attend two additional evening sessions in October and November and two sessions in the winter (January and February). In the spring, Fellows will attend the annual Washington Policy Seminar in Washington, DC, in March which brings together Fellows from EPFP programs across the country. Finally, the year's capstone event is the Spring Retreat which includes the annual EPFP Legislative Day and Graduation scheduled for April in Raleigh.

### Cost

Each fellow is sponsored by his/her organization. Each sponsor is responsible for covering tuition and travel costs associated with participation in EPFP, including the annual trip to Washington, DC. Tuition for the NC Education Policy Fellowship is \$2850 which covers each Fellow attending all meetings/retreats as well as attending the Washington Policy Seminar.