Buckeye R.E.A.C.H. Fellowship

Background
Founded in August 2012, the Buckeye R.E.A.C.H. program (Relationships and Education in Action through Community and Hope) connected about 30 Ohio State students to inmates in the Scioto Correctional and Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facilities. Over its almost five-year history, the program has been hosted by several facilities across Ohio, serving hundreds of youth. Today, student mentors meet almost weekly with justice-involved youth to engage in a variety of educational and developmental activities.

Program Growth
Beginning in autumn of 2017, Buckeye R.E.A.C.H. will expand into the Buckeye R.E.A.C.H. Fellowship. The new designation will allow for the same quality programming for youth with added emphasis on developing the student cohort, focusing on developing our future leaders and change agents. Fellows will engage in weekly events designed to expand their scholarship concerning justice and incarceration, bolster their network, develop their professional skills, and to create a designated space for students to share ideas and dialogue with others at Ohio State and beyond.

Dual Sites
The fellowship will be offered at the and the Franklin County Juvenile Correction Center and the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility. The Franklin County Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) is a 132-bed maximum security facility located in downtown Columbus which houses youth whose cases are pending. Buckeye R.E.A.C.H. currently works in a group setting with the adult male population at the facility, typically a group of about a dozen youth aged 18-21. The Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility is a maximum-security facility for males ages 12-21. It is located about 45 minutes south of Columbus.

The Fellowship Experience:
Facility Programming
Fellows will serve as peer mentors for youth in juvenile detention facilities.

Meetings
Fellows will meet biweekly for 2-3 hour meetings. These will include professional development, educational seminars, and prep for the next site visit. Fellows will reflect on their experiences, prepare for future programming, engage in critical dialogues, develop professionally, and grow as a scholar.

Networking Events
Fellows will participate in networking events with figures in Columbus and beyond, individuals and organizations that shape our justice system. These formal events will be held almost monthly.

Capstone
Fellows will complete a short capstone project, which they will build throughout the year during meetings and programming and present in the spring. They will write a short brief which tackles an issue they have identified in the justice system.
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How to Apply

The application, released annually during the summer, will be linked on this page. After the application is submitted, candidates will go through an interview process.

Fellows are accepted for each academic cycle, accepted in September and completing the program in May.

For more information please contact Kenza Kamal (kamal.24@osu.edu), Jack Brandl (brandl.8@osu.edu), or socialchange@osu.edu.