Hodding Carter III Public Service Fellowship

Call for Letters of Interest

The Hodding Carter III Public Service Fellowship was established in 2015 in honor of Hodding Carter III, the (Emeritus) University Professor of Leadership and Public Policy at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The Fellowship supports opportunities for UNC undergraduate public policy majors to engage in public service opportunities in our communities, the American south, the nation and around the globe.

During the summer of 2016, the inaugural Hodding Carter III Fellow will have the opportunity to spend the summer with the Hope Enterprise Corporation in Jackson, Mississippi (http://hope-ec.org/). The Hope Enterprise Corporation/Hope Credit Union (HOPE) is one of the nation’s leading community development organizations. For over 20 years, HOPE has been improving lives by helping entrepreneurs, homebuyers, families and communities become more financially secure. Since 1994 HOPE has generated more than $2 billion in financing and assisted over 650,000 people across the Mid-South.

The Carter III Fellow will serve on a team to advance public policies that improve the quality of life for low-income and low-wealth individuals in the Mid-South states of Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

The Hodding Carter III Public Service Fellow Selection Committee will seek letters of interest from interested applicants. The deadline for submission is March 15, 2016. Interested students should send the following information as a zip file to the Committee (c/o Mary Edwards, edwardmc@email.unc.edu):

- A letter of interest from the student nominee with a brief (no more than 500-word) description of the nominee’s achievements, commitment to improving the welfare of low-and moderate-income households, and experience with, or a strong interest in, working with diverse communities;
- Unofficial transcript;
- Resume;
- Other relevant information supporting the selection of the candidate; and
- A letter of support from a faculty member, internship supervisor, or other professional policy mentor.

The Fellow will author memos and reports that will be used to brief policy makers, nonprofit and community leaders. Specifically, the Fellow will provide analytical support to HOPE’s efforts to increase public and private investments in persistent poverty counties where poverty rates have eclipsed 20% for three decades in a row.
The Fellow’s responsibilities include:

- Authoring policy briefs, reports, and memos on issues affecting communities of persistent poverty
- Conducting analysis of data on economic, financial, employment and banking trends in persistent poverty communities
- Preparing analysis for presentation of findings to nonprofit leaders, state and federal elected officials, administrative leaders in Cabinet agencies and the media

The Fellow should have these competencies/skills:

- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint
- Working knowledge of or an interest in being trained on ArcGIS mapping software
- Coursework in public policy, public administration, economics or law with some coursework in statistics

Hodding Carter III was president and CEO of the Knight Foundation from February 1998 until July 2005. Under his leadership, the Knight Foundation made $15 million in grants to further freedom-of-information projects and initiatives. The Foundation funded Sunshine Week, an annual effort sponsored by journalism advocacy and civil society organizations to promote values of open government, freedom of information, and public participation.

Carter held the Knight Chair in Journalism at the University Of Maryland College Of Journalism, and from 1965-66 he was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard. He worked on two presidential campaigns – for Lyndon Johnson and Jimmy Carter. In January 1977, Carter became spokesman of the Department of State and Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, serving until 1980. Carter’s wife, Patricia Murphy Derian is a civil and human rights activist, who served as Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs from 1977 to 1981.

Carter went on to a national career in the media as television commentator and newspaper correspondent on public affairs, working with ABC, NBC, CNN, PBS, BBC, and The New York Times, among other leading media, and in the process earned four national Emmy Awards and the Edward R. Murrow Award for his documentaries. Carter received The Giduz Award for Public Service from the Harvard Club of the Research Triangle – “presented annually to an outstanding citizen who is committed to public service in our community, country and the world.”

Carter’s father was a newspaper publisher and editor in the South, whose editorials on racial and religious tolerance for the family-owned Greenville, Mississippi Delta Democrat-Times won the Pulitzer Prize in 1946. Born in New Orleans and raised in Greenville, Hodding Carter III graduated summa cum laude in with a bachelor’s degree from Princeton University. After serving in the military, he returned to Greenville, where he spent nearly 18 years as reporter-editorial writer, managing editor, and editor and associate publisher of the Delta Democrat-Times.