

## SESP E4 Early Career Visiting Fellows Program

The E4 Early Career Visiting Fellows Program is currently seeking four postdoctoral scholars to conduct K-12 education research at Northwestern University's Center for Education Efficacy, Excellence, and Equity (E4) during the 2022-23 academic year. Housed at Northwestern's School of Education and Social Policy (SESP), the Center was created through an innovative partnership supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that links University researchers and Curriculum Associates, a leading provider of digital assessment and instructional materials, with several school districts.

The visiting scholars will research a range of issues facing underrepresented students, including children of color, non-native English speakers, or students whose families live in poverty. In addition to collaborating with researchers and graduate students at SESP, visiting fellows will connect with scholars across campus, including the Center for Computer Science and Learning Sciences, a collaboration between SESP and Northwestern Engineering.

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### ABOUT E4

E4 is part of the School of Education and Social Policy's commitment to generate rigorous evidence to improve K-12 education. E4 will address the inequities built into education systems by leveraging the speed at which digital platforms generate high quality data.

The partnership combines the expertise of an established education tech company serving over 11 million students with one of the world's leading institutions of education research and teaching, and several urban school districts.

SESP faculty, experts in economics, psychology, learning sciences, education, computer science, human development and more, will use Curriculum Associates' data to help solve some of the challenges educators face. School district partners, meanwhile, will work collaboratively with the E4 partners to develop a useful and relevant research agenda for the E4 Center. This partnership works to close the gap between how education research is developed and then used by schools and districts, with a commitment to producing information that schools need and can use.

Curriculum Associates' data includes diagnostic results from the assessments that students take three times a year and lesson data across several domains in English/language arts and math. The English/language arts data includes phonological awareness, phonics, comprehension, high frequency words, and vocabulary. Math data includes numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, and measurement. All data can be disaggregated by gender, race, special education and English-language learner status, and zip code.

## RESEARCH THEMES

### POSSIBLE RESEARCH STUDIES USING CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES

#### DATA INCLUDE:

- Exploring pathways to successful completion of algebra at middle grade levels.
- Identifying districts where students are doing well on pathways to algebra success compared to those who are struggling, to set up case studies.
- Impact analyses of tutoring, or early childhood education, or chronic student absence, or SEL implementation on student outcomes.
- Exploring alignment, digital user experience, and/or engagement with instructional materials with respect to social-emotional learning or culturally relevant practices.
- Matching Curriculum Associates data with district administrative data for a wide range of studies (with approvals from school districts).

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## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### APPLICANTS MUST:

- Have a PhD, EdD or equivalent research degree.
- Currently work as an assistant professor and may not hold tenure at the application deadline.

### PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO:

- Early career research scholars of color.
- First-generation college-going research scholars.
- Early career research scholars who will explore questions focused on, but not limited to, success in mathematics, algebraic readiness, success in algebra, and/or the impact of social emotional learning on student outcomes.

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## SCHOLAR COMMITMENTS

### SCHOLARS MUST:

- Be in residence at Northwestern for the full 2022-23 academic year (Sept. 16, 2022-June 15, 2023). Fellows are welcome to spend all or part of summer 2023 in residence through Aug. 31, 2023, yet the stipend will be limited to nine months.
- Work on their own research agenda and studies reflecting the E4 research agenda along with spending no more than 20% of their time completing E4 analyses.
- Agree to participate in regular, in-person learning opportunities with E4 and Curriculum Associates staff and with Northwestern faculty and graduate students.
- Acknowledge that the fellowship is for a single academic year and not remain at Northwestern following the fellowship year.

## BENEFITS FOR SCHOLARS

- Early Career Visiting Fellows will be able to access Curriculum Associates' rich data base and be part of a tight-knit learning community that includes colleagues from across the Northwestern campus, Curriculum Associates, and the participating school districts.
- A stipend of up to \$87,000 over the nine-month academic year will be awarded to each Early Career Visiting Fellow.
- When appropriate, the fellowship will also fund a negotiated rate for benefits coverage.
- Visiting fellows who arrange formal paid leaves from their current university will be welcome to use the stipend and benefits rate to fund or supplement an approved institutional research leave.
- Each Visiting Fellow will have access to a research fund of \$10,000 to offset research, travel, and conference costs.
- Each Visiting Fellow will be a member of the SESP scholarly community interacting with colleagues from SESP and across the university. Each fellow may have opportunity to collaborate with SESP scholars on topics of mutual interest.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

### **APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:**

- ▶ A current curriculum vitae or resume limited to five pages that includes relevant education, employment, awards, fellowships, and relevant publications and research.
- ▶ A statement of interest that explains how this fellowship aligns with your career goals and how you will benefit from an academic year at Northwestern (no more than three pages double-spaced). Please include evidence of your experience and commitment to collaborative research with school practitioners, district leaders, and policy specialists that produces knowledge that is relevant and useful.
- ▶ A research statement that describes one or more potential projects that you might pursue using Curriculum Associates' data, recognizing your ideas may shift during the fellowship period (no more than three pages double-spaced). Please include the names of up to three SESP scholars you may want to interact with on your project(s).
- ▶ Recent publications or reports (up to three).
- ▶ Two references including name, title, institution, phone number and email address. Recommendation letters are not required.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

- ▶ All completed applications must be emailed to [E4Center@northwestern.edu](mailto:E4Center@northwestern.edu) by 5 p.m. (CT) Friday, Dec. 10, 2021. Please note the time zone as the E4 Early Career Visiting Fellows Review Committee will not accept applications (or incomplete applications) submitted after the deadline.
- ▶ All materials must be submitted in pdf format, doubled spaced in at least 11-point font, and one-inch margins.

### **APPLICATION TIMELINE:**

- ▶ **Call for applicants:** October 15, 2021
- ▶ **Applications due:** December 10, 2021
- ▶ **Decisions made:** January 15, 2022
- ▶ **Commitments due:** January 24, 2022

*Northwestern requires all staff and faculty to be vaccinated against COVID-19, subject to limited exceptions. For more information, please visit our [COVID-19 and Campus Updates](#) website.*

*The Northwestern campus sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires, the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa as well as the Menominee, Miami and Ho-Chunk nations. We acknowledge and honor the original people of the land upon which Northwestern University stands, and the Native people who remain on this land today.*

*Northwestern University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer of all protected classes, including veterans and individuals with disabilities. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply. Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the United States. Click for information on [EEO is the Law](#).*

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT [E4Center@northwestern.edu](mailto:E4Center@northwestern.edu)**