



Worcester Education Collaborative
Woo-Labs Hanover Fellowship Academic Year 2022-2023
Position Description

Do you enjoy working with children and being part of a team?

Are you planning to pursue a career in youth development or teaching and looking for an exciting, hands-on experience working directly with youth to support learning and enrichment?

[Worcester Education Collaborative](#) (WEC) seeks undergraduate and/or graduate students to apply for its Hanover Fellowship. Hanover Fellows serve at WEC's partner youth-serving organizations to support program implementation and enhance program offerings. The Fellowship couples hand-on work with students running PBL with meaningful professional development. This position is ideal for those passionate about positive youth development and eager to expand their ability to facilitate meaningful, authentic learning experiences for young people under the mentorship of experienced out-of-school time programming professionals.

WEC has launched "[Woo-Labs](#)," a network of community-based partners advancing educational and racial equity and closing opportunity and achievement gaps by providing high-quality, culturally responsive, project-based learning opportunities for Worcester Public School K-6 students. Drawing its name from residents' nickname for their city, Woo-Labs reimagines education as an ecosystem that includes out-of-school learning, centers students' lived experiences and agency, and actively works to dismantle bias and inequity.

This school year, Hanover Fellows will serve at Woo-Labs partner organizations focusing on the following three foundational strategies:

1. Providing student-centered, project-based learning opportunities
2. Applying a common measurement framework to support program improvement
3. Promoting students' social emotional skills

Fellows commit to serving 225 hours over the course of the school year. The majority of hours (approximately 180) are spent working directly at the partner site with whom Fellows match (see below) to execute these strategies, with a focus on building capacity for project-based learning opportunities and measurement. In their remaining 45 hours, Fellows engage in Woo-Labs' "Community of Practice," ongoing professional development with fellow members of the Woo-Labs ecosystem to expand their knowledge of youth development best practices. The Community of Practice includes targeted training and discussion on topics such as project-based learning and fostering trauma-sensitive environments as well as opportunities to visit and learn from fellow Woo-Labs partner sites. Fellows also receive comprehensive pre-service training and ongoing support from WEC.

This is both a Fellowship – a commitment to a set of learning opportunities to promote growth – and a paid position. Fellows must be willing and eager to commit to the responsibilities included here, especially PBL and professional development. This robust learning opportunity requires considerable independence and initiative and will be attractive to future employers.

Fellows' schedules vary by partner site placement. Most partner sites run from September to June. Fellows serve a minimum of 5 hours/week and may serve up to 8 hours/week depending on the partner site's schedule. WEC seeks Fellows who are willing to make a commitment to serve their entire academic year (September – May). Successful eligible Fellows may have the opportunity to continue their experience during the summer.

Woo-Labs is committed to building a cohort of Hanover Fellows reflective of the city's rich linguistic, racial, and ethnic identities and cultivating their skills and competencies to facilitate high-quality learning opportunities.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Engage directly with young people to build trusting, affirming relationships
- Develop and implement robust project-based learning activities
- Coordinate the collection of Woo-Labs measurement data, including:
 - Collecting daily student attendance and parent/guardian consent forms
 - Implementing student and staff surveys
- Serve as a Woo-Labs liaison to build partner site staff's knowledge and capacity for Woo-Labs activities
- Support with site-specific parent engagement and student attendance promotion strategies
- Perform other site-specific responsibilities as needed

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Experiences

WEC seeks candidates who are:

- Experienced with and/or passionate about positive youth development
- Interested in K-12 education and/or out-of-school time programming
- Interested in project-based learning
- Skilled at relationship building and fostering supportive learning environments
- Able to work with individuals from various age groups and those with diverse learning styles and racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds
- Eager to advance educational and racial equity
- Organized, detail-oriented, and effective time managers and communicators
- Enthusiastic team players
- Flexible, eager learners

Preferred Knowledge, Skills, and Experiences

- Prior experience with K-6 age group
- Familiarity with Worcester community
- Enrolled in a relevant field of study at their college or university
- Bilingualism a plus

Compensation

Fellows will earn \$16.00 an hour. Fellows will serve approximately 225 hours total for total compensation of \$3,600. Please note that Fellows must complete a site-specific background check prior to working with youth.

To Apply

Please submit a cover letter and résumé to Emily Dodge (edodge@wecollaborative.org). Please indicate in your cover letter if you have any preference on partner site placement (see below). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all positions are filled. Feel free to contact Emily with any questions.

Worcester Education Collaborative is an Equal Opportunity Employer with a commitment to diversity and inclusivity in the workplace. Worcester Education Collaborative is under the fiscal sponsorship of United Way of Central Massachusetts.

Partner Site Information

Woo-Labs will hire up to 12 Fellows, each of whom will serve at one of the following partner sites. Applicants will have the opportunity to express their placement preference during the application process. See partner site websites for additional information on educational programming:

Organization and Website Link	Mission	Schedule
African Community Education	To assist African refugee and immigrant youth and families in achieving educational and social stability through access to academic support, leadership development, cultural expression, and community outreach in Worcester	Saturdays, 9-2:30 October – June
Boys and Girls Club of Worcester	To help youth, especially those who need us most, develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and community leaders, through caring professional staff who forge relationships with our youth members and influence their ability to succeed in life	Weekday afternoons September – June
Broad Meadow Brook	To help youth can tap into their natural curiosity and be themselves as they investigate different habitats, ecosystems, and wildlife species at our 430-acre sanctuary	TBD Likely once a week October - May
Black Excellence Academy	To foster excellence and positive self-esteem in a culturally relevant learning environment in order to accelerate academic performance while enriching knowledge and appreciation of Black History and Culture	Weekday afternoons September – June
Girls Inc of Worcester	To inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold	Weekday afternoons September – June
Guild of St. Agnes	To provide families with quality, affordable early childhood education and school age programs in a safe, nurturing environment for children four weeks to twelve years	Weekday afternoons September – June
Latino Education Institute	To ensure the success of Latino children in school and in our community	Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons October – May
Main IDEA	To use artistic activity to focus on empowerment and intrinsic motivation, and work to improve student academic achievement, motivation, and engagement, as well as improve social competencies such as teamwork skills, self-expression, and self-confidence	1-2 weekday afternoons TBD October – May
Worcester Art Museum	To engage students in traditional and novel media and art-making techniques to explore their own creative voice and foster 21 st century skill-building	Saturdays, 10 – 2:30 October – June
YMCA of Central Massachusetts	To strengthen our communities and to develop the spirit, mind, and body of all persons, regardless of means, through activities guided by and based upon our core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility	Weekday afternoons September – June
YWCA of Central Massachusetts	To promote children’s success by providing a balance of academic support, arts and cultural enrichment, recreation, and nutrition	Weekday afternoons September – June