

Title: The role of Afrocentric features in the help-seeking behaviors of Black college students.

Fellowship Name: National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Fellowship

Selection Criteria: GRFP supports individuals proposing a comprehensive holistic plan for graduate education that takes into account individual interests and competencies. A holistic plan describes the experiences, attributes, and academic achievements and, when considered in combination, shows how the applicant has demonstrated potential for significant research achievements in STEM or in STEM education. Thus, an applicant must provide a detailed profile of her or his relevant educational and research experiences and plans for graduate education in such a way as to demonstrate this potential for significant achievements. Prospective applicants are advised that submission of an application implies a commitment to the pursuit of graduate study in a research-based program in STEM or STEM education. Acceptance of a Fellowship award is an explicit agreement that the Fellow will be duly enrolled in a graduate degree program consistent with the field of study indicated in their application by the beginning of the following academic year.

Merit Review Criteria: Intellectual Merit: The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge; and **Broader Impacts:** The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16588/nsf16588.pdf>

During the Fellowship: The studies proposed in my NSF grant were the basis of my master's thesis for which I have already started collecting data! During the fellowship, I will continue collecting data for my master's thesis that examines the impact of feature-based bias and its impact on help-seeking behaviors in Black students. In the first study, I will be examining how Black students' mental healthcare utilization may differ based on their Afrocentric features (i.e., features that signify African descent; darker skin and eye colors, wider nose, thicker lips, coarse hair). In the second study, I will be using an experimental design to examine whether Black students would prefer to see a counselor whose Afrocentric features are most similar to their own.