Dear LSAMP Students,

As many of you have had your research, internships and other plans cancelled due to COVID-19, the Center for Research and Fellowships at Villanova University is proud to announce a unique opportunity to use this time and advance your career while quarantining.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has provided funds to support the professional development of students in our LSAMP program in the area of self-presentation and research preparation, particularly for national fellowships such as the NSF's Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). This **STEM Fellowships Online Boot Camp** will enhance your career—**at no cost to you.** This Boot Camp consists of five live, synchronous online sessions, each lasting 3-4 hours.

We are excited to report that **we have been offered multiple spots** for students from our LSAMP. Some students will be randomly assigned to a control group and will receive an Amazon gift card for simply completing some surveys (see details, below). Because space is limited, **the Online Boot Camp opportunity is offered on a first-come, first-served basis**, and the registration form will only be open **until 11:59 pm EST on Feb. 15**—so sign up *now*!

The session will take place on Mondays, Feb. 22 and Mar. 1, 8, 15 and 22, all from 6-9:30pm (EST).

This opportunity is *best* suited for LSAMP students who are:
1. Pursuing an advanced degree in a STEM discipline (but **not** medical or dental school).
2. Potentially pursuing a faculty career.

And are, in Spring 2021:
1. undergraduate **Juniors** who plan to apply to graduate school in STEM,
2. undergraduate **Seniors** applying to graduate school in STEM,
3. **first-year** Master's students who plan to apply for a PhD program in STEM, or
4. **first-year** PhD students in a STEM program **who do not already have Master's degrees**

The NSF/STEM Fellowships Boot Camp is an interactive workshop series delivered by by Dr. Michael T. Westrate from Villanova University. Through similar Boot Camps each of the last five years, Dr. Westrate and his team have assisted over 500 student applicants to major national awards. Of those applicants, more than 100 won the prestigious NSF GRFP award or received Honorable Mention, and over 200 others won similar awards (e.g. Fulbright). The program will consist of 20 hours of interactive workshop sessions and will cover everything from finding fellowship opportunities to leveraging fellowship wins with graduate school admissions. Topics include:
- solid research plan design,
- personal statements and "hooks,"
- how to effectively ask for recommendation letters,
- and more.

This Boot Camp is part of a larger study examining the effects of information delivery systems on students' application and success rates. As part of this study, you will be asked to complete a series of nine surveys about your experiences with the Boot Camp and the application process more generally (seven surveys during the Boot Camp, and one each in May of 2022 and 2023). Each of these surveys should take under 20 minutes to complete. For complete details, see below.

To be included in the study, you must commit to participating in all of the Online Boot Camp sessions. Again, because space is limited, participation in the study will be offered to the first group of students who register—first registered, first served.

If you are interested, please register here. The Villanova team will let you know by Feb. 17 if you have been selected to participate in the study.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Boot Camp or the NSF-sponsored study, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Michael Westrate (michael.westrate@villanova.edu; 610-519-5928) or Dr. Sage Milo (sage.milo@villanova.edu; 610-519-5986).

Respectfully,

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http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/crf.html