

# A.L.L.I.E.D.

## Advanced Learning and Leadership Initiative for Educational Diversity Graduate Assistantship 2021-2022 -- FULL TIME

### **\*History of ALLIED:**

In Fall 2006, the FSEHD Diversity Committee initiated the first section of CURR 150, otherwise known as A.L.L.I.E.D., the Advanced Learning and Leadership Initiative for Educational Diversity. In an effort to recruit and retain students from historically underrepresented groups into our education programs, we designed this one-credit course to help students develop both academic and cultural competencies. For students who often feel disconnected and marginalized in their educational experiences, A.L.L.I.E.D. offered a unique space for building community and strengthening a sense of self.

The A.L.L.I.E.D. group has been thus far successful on two fronts:

#### *Providing Academic Support and Advising:*

Students who come to A.L.L.I.E.D. use the space to talk about their academic struggles and seek guidance from faculty advisors and from their peers. In the class meetings, we talk about study skills, course planning, FSEHD admission requirements, strategies for approaching faculty, and ways to build competence and confidence as a college student. This course provides habits of mind that help students persist toward graduation. Each semester several of our students make Dean's List.

#### *Developing Identities Around Difference:*

Beyond the nuts and bolts that A.L.L.I.E.D. students need to help them become successful college students, these students need a place to feel at home, a place where they feel safe to speak about themselves as people from underrepresented groups on a predominantly white (and otherwise dominant) campus. They find allies and friends in this group who help them feel more connected to RIC, to the FSEHD and to themselves. We have already seen that this is an essential retention tool. Students use our lunch meetings and our private blog to find support and community.

### **\*Work Schedule:**

Wednesdays 11-2, plus 17 additional hours meeting with students/faculty/staff, collecting data, blogging, and researching issues of student retention.

### **\*Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Co-facilitate A.L.L.I.E.D. sessions every Wednesday
- Meet with students for academic and other issues
- Keep records and collect data on our students
- Maintaining A.L.L.I.E.D. social media spaces (blog and GroupMe text message chat)
- Conduct research on student persistence and higher education attainment
- Work with faculty advisors in the school of education to recruit new A.L.L.I.E.D. students
- Work with Learning for Life on student advocacy issues

### **\* Contribution to Professional Development:**

This assistantship will enhance the professional skills of any graduate student hoping to work in youth advocacy, higher education, social justice, or mentorship. The GA for ALLIED is a true member of a team, working with Lesley Bogad (faculty liaison and mentor) and Chris Susi (group facilitator) each week. This GA-ship offers a graduate student the opportunity for leadership, and also a strong community of support that will enhance the graduate student's own connection to the college.

### **\* Qualifications**

- Knowledge and comfort with issues of privilege, diversity and social justice
- Interest in student success and the retention of students from underrepresented groups in higher education
- Strong organizational skills including use of technology (specifically Google Drive and blogger)
- Interpersonal skills for working with faculty, staff and students
- Strong ability to initiate new systems, initiatives, and structures to support student success

**\* How to apply**

Please submit resume and cover letter that specifically describes how your life, school, and work experiences prepare you to meet the qualifications listed above to Dr. Lesley Bogad at [Lbogad@ric.edu](mailto:Lbogad@ric.edu). Please use subject line "ALLIED GA 2021-22." Graduate students of color and bilingual students are strongly encouraged to apply.