

“There is an ongoing challenge of how to utilize young people in a way that is mutually beneficial. The Compton Mentor Fellowship Program is unique in its nature, it helps refresh the passion and enthusiasm for one’s work”

- Michael Kinsley, Rocky Mountain Institute, 2002 Mentor

Compton Foundation

Mentor Fellowship – Mentor Description

Mentor Expectations

The central role of a Compton Mentor is to provide guidance and support to a Compton Fellow. This partnership is crucial to the success of the Fellowship. The Mentor will share common interests and goals with the Fellow, be a source of encouragement and impetus for continued learning and service, and help transform academic studies into real world applications.

The role of the Mentor will vary with individuals and projects – from providing professional advice to personal friendship – however, it should always include a commitment to helping the Fellow achieve a sense of satisfaction and growth through the project he/she has designed.

It is important to recognize that although a Mentor and Fellow will work collaboratively, from a distance or in close proximity, *the Fellow is not an intern or an employee*. Instead, the partnership is based on learning and applying knowledge in ways that the Fellow would not otherwise be able to do without a Mentor.

Within the broad range of possibilities for a Mentor/Fellow partnership, the Compton Foundation expects each Mentor to:

- Establish guidelines with the Fellow for a clear working relationship
- Maintain regular communication with the Fellow
- Provide rigorous review and insight on the Fellow’s project
- Be a source of connections and professional opportunities
- Critique and respond to the Fellow’s Compton reports

The rewards of the Mentor’s contribution may not be tangible or measurable. However, they are vital to the development of a promising young person committed to making a positive difference in the world.