**Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program**

RCOE 509M

Appalachian State University Boone, NC 28608

**Dear Student,**

The [Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program](http://sdap.appstate.edu) (SDAP) will be awarding $500- $1000 per semester as fellowships to full time students interested in living on campus supporting students in the SDAP program. The College Life Fellows program is for students who have previously participated in SDAP as a volunteer support, a student in the Exceptional Learners concentration for Education Majors, or other similar experiences where you have regularly participated (i.e,Special Olympics, Best Buddies, Victory Junction). We seek individuals who are interested in being a friend, mentor and support to students who are part of SDAP, primarily in the residence halls in the evenings and weekends. Between 4 and 6 SDAP Fellowships will be awarded for the 2019-20 school year.

**Requirements:**

* Rising sophomore or above enrolled at Appalachian
* Minimum GPA of 2.0
* Interest in supporting students with an intellectualdisability
* Experiences as volunteer or support for individuals with disabilities (not necessarily IDD)
* No record with Student Conduct or criminal background (provide report upon request)

**Responsibilities:**

* Help create and maintain a positive, inclusive residence hall atmosphere
* Participate with Scholars in college experiences as a positive role model
* Assist in maintaining room safety and appropriate level of cleanliness
* Weekly:
	+ Ensure that the SDAP students ‘check in’ each evening (at an agreed upon time)
	+ If requested by SDAP staff or students, be available to assist SDAP students in being prepared for the day, leaving in the morning with appropriate attire and materials for classes and other responsibilities/activities as needed
* Evening and weekend responsibilities 2-3 times per week (including nights ‘on-duty where students can reach out if they need support such as help with laundry, want a buddy to eat dinner with, or if they need someone to talk to).
* Communicate with Residence Hall staff and SDAP program on a regular basis regarding the SDAP student’s needs, concerns and progress

**Benefits:**

* Working with our scholars is mutually beneficial and with short and long term rewards
	+ Experience with life and vocational skills for future work in a variety of human service fields
	+ A chance to have significantly meaningful relationships
	+ IT’S FUN!
* You do not have to enter thehousing lottery

Please submit a completed application to sdap@appstate.edu by **November 18, 2018 midnight***. References should be submitted directly by the referrer to the same email by that date.* If you have any questions, please contact me at 828-262-8389. Late applications may be accepted, but may not be considered.

Thank you for your interest!

Anna G. Ward

Director, Scholars with Diverse Abilities

**Fellowship Requirements:**

* Sophomore or above
* Cumulative and semester grade point average (GPA) of 2.0
* In good standing with the Office of Student Conduct (not actively on probation during the time of application/interview/offer/service).
* No criminal record or outstanding warrants.
* Participate in all trainings and required meetings:
	+ Move in a week before classes start (and a day or two before students arrive) for Fellows training, aid student’s in moving in, and participate in the Semester Preview- a three-day orientation/crash-course for SDAP staff, GAs, supports, and students.
	+ Participate in required trainings as requested by program staff (this may include Red Flag Campaign training, portions of the Housing trainings, or other SDAP-specific trainings)
	+ Attend weekly and bimonthly meetings during the year
	+ Participate in prospective student on campus visits in Feb/Mar
	+ 2 trainings in Spring semester

Be willing to:

* Spend 2-3 nights a week (including weekends) ‘on-duty’ and be available if students in the program:
	+ Want to go to dinner
	+ Need a friend to talk to
	+ Get lost and need support in navigating their way back to the resident halls
	+ Want a study buddy or need help with homework
	+ Have an emergency. Fellows are the point people in navigating situations that arise by notifying SDAP staff and RAs.
* Create and support a safe and positive College Life and living environment
* Model appropriate social behavior and be inclusive
* Follow the rules and instructions for your Residence Hall
* Abide by the Code of Student Conduct
* Follow your Roommate Agreement
* Maintain the balance of SDAP student autonomy (personal ability to make choices and decisions) and supporting students in navigating decisions in a positive and strengths-based way. *For example, if a student wants to walk to Macados in the middle of the night in the snow, the Fellows role would be to remind the student to check that Macados is open, and encourage the student to put on a jacket and snow boots. NOT to stop the student or necessarily join the student.*
* Recognize that SDAP students have the same rights as any student of their age *Students in the program who are 21 or older CAN choose to drink alcohol, students in the program CAN engage in consensual sexual relations, students in the program CAN make decisions about how they spend their time and with whom without Fellows or SDAP interference if these decisions are consensual and safe.*
* Know that each night you are on-duty, an SDAP staff members if available by phone.
* Understand that if an emergent situation arises in the evening times (where police, medical personnel, or other trained professionals are called) that as the on-duty fellow, your role is to report to call the on-duty SDAP staff member.
* Collaborate with others (other Fellows, housing staff, SDAP staff and volunteers) to support the Scholars
* Communicate with SDAP in a timely fashion
* Agree to the SDAP Director having access to any incident reports submitted on campus.

**Ways that the fellowship can be revoked:**

1. Probation status with Office of Student Conduct
2. Arrest or prosecution for unlawful behavior
3. Poor communication with SDAP
4. Not maintaining a safe and supportive living environment
5. Having an Incident Report
6. Academic probation
7. Not following the schedule
8. Not modeling appropriate social behaviors
9. If students in the program report a fellow makes them feel unsafe or belittled (by bullying, giving unsolicited advice, making fun of students, or acting overly parent-like)

**Process for losing fellowship:**

1. If a Fellowship student is on probation with the Office of Student Conduct or academic probation, or is arrested for unlawful behavior she/he will lose his/her fellowship immediately.
2. If a Fellowship student is not upholding the agreement outlined above, the student will be given a written or verbal warning that s/he may lose his/her fellowship and will be asked to attend a meeting with Program Director to discuss solutions to the problem. After the second warning, the student will lose his/her fellowship.
3. If the Fellowship has been awarded to the student’s account prior to being revoked, they will be required to pay it back.

**SDAP Fellows Application**

**Please complete the following and submit electronically as a docx, rtf, or pdf, to Anna Ward, at sdap@appstate. edu with the words “Fellows Application” as the subject. Due midnight November 18, 2018**

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Current residence hall or RLC:**

**Major:**

**GPA:**

**Telephone number:**

**Application Questions:**

*Note: If you are invited to interview, you may be asked to submit a background check dated within 1 year.*

Are you willing to maintain and uphold all of the requirements of the College Life Fellow listed on the three pages at the beginning of the application? These requirements include moving to campus early for Fellow training, aiding students in moving onto campus, nights ‘on-duty’, and supporting the students as requested by the student/SDAP staff?

Yes No

Describe any previous experience you have had with individuals with intellectual disabilities or other relevant experience (100 words)

Why are you interested in this position? (200-300 words)

**References**

**Please provide the names and contact information for two references: one professor or work supervisor, and one peer. References cannot be from family members.**

**References should fill out the forms and email them directly to Anna Ward,** **sdap@appstate.edu** **by the deadline. Please have them write “Reference for (your name)” in the subject heading.**

**1. Professor/ Work Supervisor**

Name/Title:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

**2. Peer**

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

**I agree that the following are true at the time of submitting the application.**

1. I will be at least a sophomore during the year I would be a Fellow.
2. I have previous experience working with individuals with disabilities
3. I have a cumulative and semester grade point average (GPA) of 2.0
4. I am in good standing with the Office of Student Conduct (not actively on probation during the time of application/interview/offer/service).
5. I have no criminal record

**Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**SDAP College Life Fellow Reference Questions**

To be filled out and *emailed by the reference provider* to sdap@appstate.edu with the applicant’s name as the subject

Applicants Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your (Reference) Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

Please rate the applicant:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Personal Trait** | **Fair** | **Average** | **Above Average** | **Excellent** |
| Responsible |  |  |  |  |
| Open Minded |  |  |  |  |
| Shows care and concern for others |  |  |  |  |
| Flexible |  |  |  |  |
| Shows interest or value in supporting individuals with intellectual and/or other disabilities |  |  |  |  |
| Mature |  |  |  |  |
| Respectful |  |  |  |  |
| Problem solving skills |  |  |  |  |
| Manages time carefully |  |  |  |  |
| Good communicator  |  |  |  |  |

What are the applicant’s strengths as you see related to providing support to an individual with intellectual disabilities?

Do you have any concerns about the applicant working with people with intellectual disabilities?