

## **Rhodes Fellowships: Linking Education and Practice**

### **Rhodes College**

Robert Strandburg, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for Curriculum  
[strandburg@rhodes.edu](mailto:strandburg@rhodes.edu)

**The Rhodes Vision:** Rhodes College aspires to graduate students with a lifelong passion for learning, a compassion for others, and the ability to translate academic study and personal concern into effective leadership and action in their communities and the world.  
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*Rhodes Fellowships: Linking Education And Practice* builds on our successes with experiential learning (EL) programs. The decision to focus on student work outside the classroom grew out of a long history of student involvement in research and service coupled with a community wide reconsideration of the college mission and curriculum following the arrival of a new President in the summer of 1999.

Assessment of a number of ongoing student research and service programs yielded a pattern of learning outcomes that support the Rhodes Vision. This QEP seeks to extend these learning opportunities to a larger group of students, provide added infrastructural support and conduct rigorous and consistent assessment of all EL programs.

Rhodes will establish sufficient EL opportunities (Fellowships) to be able to offer every merit aid recipient an opportunity to participate in the Fellowships program. A data management system will be developed to support student identification of appropriate fellowship experiences, advising, reflection work and assessment. A full-time Director of Fellowships will be appointed along with a Fellowships Committee to provide oversight. Substantial infrastructural support will come from a wide variety of existing offices and programs. Reallocation of current resources for this program will result in minimal budgetary impact.

Five student learning outcomes operationalized using NSSE scales will be evaluated:

- Integration of factual knowledge, fundamental principles, and/or specific skills learned in the classroom with the fellowship activity.
- Strengthening analytical and creative abilities toward establishment of a professional identity.
- Evidence of participatory, collaborative, and/or team-oriented learning.
- Personal and social development
- Development of critical reflection skills

NSSE measures will be triangulated with program Scorecard data (assessing EL best practices) as well as a Reflection Assessment Rubric to strengthen construct validity and enable the assessment of both individual students and Fellowship programs.