

Title: Mentoring New Scholars Program

National Council for Black Studies

Launched with the support of a Ford Foundation grant, The National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) Mentoring New Scholars Program is an initiative designed to support the development of future Africana Studies scholars. The Initiative provides a three-prong approach:

1. First, the development of a competitive process to award travel grants to Ph.D. students in the field of Africana Studies to enable them to present papers at the NCBS national conferences.
2. Second, the design of professional development workshops to better prepare these students for the demands of academic life.
3. Third, to introduce a mentoring program that would assist these students as they navigate their way through the doctoral process and the search process for first jobs

NCBS wishes to continue the Mentoring New Scholars Program after the end of support from the Ford Foundation (scheduled termination is June 2010).

For the inaugural year 2008, eight Africana Studies doctoral students enrolled at recognized doctoral granting institutions were awarded travel grants in the amount of \$500 each to attend the 32nd National Conference of NCBS (March 19-22, 2008). The awardees presented papers at the conference and attended the requisite professional development workshop "From Dissertation to Book." Additionally, all awardees elected to participate in the mentoring program whereby their research and professional interests were matched with those of senior scholars.

The second call for travel grant applications is currently posted on the NCBS website (www.ncbsonline.org) and letters of invitation were sent to institutions with Africana Studies Departments that offer the PhD. All applicants must be enrolled in Africana/Black Studies doctoral programs. Again awardees will also be expected to present at the 33rd Annual NCBS Conference scheduled for March 19-21, 2009 and to attend the professional development workshop "Publishing the Scholarly Article" scheduled for March 19, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. This workshop is open to all conference attendees.