



Holmes Honors Program

What is the AACTE Holmes Honors Program?

The AACTE Holmes Honors Program supports undergraduates from historically underrepresented groups interested in a career in teaching, school administration, or the professoriate.

Why should an institution adopt a Holmes Honors Program?

- To encourage undergraduate students to pursue careers in education
- To diversify the educator pipeline to better reflect PK-12 demographics
- To improve the quality of the education workforce by nurturing educators who can serve all learners
- To establish an environment of mentorship and support for participants
- To prepare students to engage in the larger professional community

What are the expectations for sponsoring INSTITUTIONS?

Sponsoring institutions agree to the following commitments:

- Maintain active membership with AACTE
- Uphold the mission and values of the AACTE Holmes Program
- Demonstrate evidence of partnership with PK-12 schools or districts
- Provide their Holmes Honors students with financial support via fellowships, scholarships, tuition waivers, or other programs, as relevant to the institution's capacity and resources
- Offer coordinated mentoring support to their Holmes Honors students
- Provide financial support for Holmes Honors students to attend the AACTE Annual Meeting and the Holmes Scholars Summer Policy Institute (including transportation, hotel accommodations, meals, and other related expenses)
- Designate a faculty/staff person as the Holmes Honors program coordinator
- Regularly inform AACTE of any new Holmes Honors students selected and those completing the program, graduating, or otherwise leaving the program
- Send a representative to the Holmes Honors coordinator and dean sessions at the AACTE Annual Meeting
- Include reference to AACTE and the AACTE Holmes Honors Program in any promotional materials (print or electronic) related to the program
- Promote the value of the AACTE Holmes Program and the National Association of Holmes Scholars Alumni network among Holmes Honors students and during Holmes programming

What are the expectations for HOLMES HONORS STUDENTS?

The Holmes Honors Program is open only to undergraduate students from historically underrepresented groups pursuing a bachelor's degree. These individuals may be nominated during their freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year and begin their Holmes Honors status at any point that the institution is prepared to fully support their participation. Participants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of a group historically underrepresented in the teacher and school leader workforce, education professoriate, or education research field (especially racial, linguistic, and ethnic minorities, and people with exceptionalities)
- Demonstrate a commitment to equity and diversity
- Agree to participate in school-university-community collaborative partnership arrangements for research, service, or advocacy activities
- Hold an interest in or demonstrate potential for a career in the education field
- Uphold program requirements in high regard

In addition, Holmes Honors students agree to the following commitments:

- Participate in the AACTE Annual Meeting, including the Holmes Program preconference events, if funded by the sponsoring institution
- Present at the AACTE Annual Meeting each year they are in the program, as appropriate
- Participate at least once in the AACTE Holmes Scholars Summer Policy Institute and AACTE Day on the Hill, if funded by the sponsoring institution
- Participate in at least one other education conference or field trip
- Propose and implement a project that relates to or forwards the goals of AACTE and authentically engages the student in advocacy, policy, service, or research that furthers high-quality and equitable educator preparation
- Participate in activities and meetings sponsored by the National Association of Holmes Scholars Alumni (some of which occur at the AACTE Annual Meeting)

What are the benefits of the AACTE Holmes Honors Program?

For Students

- Membership in a national network of peers with access to dedicated online social networks
- Mentoring opportunities by AACTE Holmes Program alumni currently in academia and other leadership positions
- Opportunities to present at the AACTE Annual Meeting
- Dedicated mentoring programs at the AACTE Annual Meeting
- A job fair at the AACTE Annual Meeting and access to position announcements through the year
- A career exploration forum at the AACTE Annual Meeting
- Annual Holmes Scholars Summer Policy Institute in Washington, DC, including participation in AACTE's Day on the Hill and networking events associated with the AACTE State Leaders Institute
- Leadership and professional development opportunities at the national, state, and local level, such as participation in conference presentations and policy/advocacy training

For Institutions

- Inspire students from groups not well represented in the educational enterprise to pursue careers in education
- Enhance the retention and graduation rates of undergraduate students from historically underrepresented groups by providing a support network of peers and unique opportunities for professional experiences
- Demonstrate and enhance the institution's role as a leader in supporting diversity
- Receive recognition in AACTE materials and communications