

IPR Summer Undergraduate Research Assistants Program

During summer 2012, the Institute for Policy Research will provide full or partial funding for undergraduate research assistants to work with IPR faculty fellows and faculty associates. The **IPR Summer Undergraduate Research Assistants (RA) Program** aims to increase undergraduate involvement in IPR research. It is our hope that some of the participants will continue to work for faculty during the following academic year and/or write honors theses on topics stemming from their IPR RA experience.

Financial Support:

- ◆ Students will earn \$10.40 per hour and typically work 35 hours per week for 10 weeks although work schedules can be flexible (see details below). All students must submit electronic timesheets and are paid for the number of hours they work each week.

Eligibility:

- ◆ The program is open to Northwestern freshmen, sophomores, and juniors only. Students from other institutions and graduating Northwestern seniors are not eligible.

Application Process:

- ◆ **Interested students** are strongly encouraged to *apply directly* to IPR faculty fellows and associates working in their particular field of interest (see www.ipr.northwestern.edu/people). The student should provide a Northwestern transcript as well as a cover letter and resume that describe the applicant's education, work experience, and computer skills. If the student cannot find a suitable faculty member, she or he may also e-mail or post their application to Cynthia Kendall (contact details below) to be included on a list for IPR faculty seeking undergraduate researchers.
- ◆ **Faculty will apply to IPR.** The faculty application will include the undergraduate's complete application plus a one-page (maximum) letter describing the research project, the student's role in the project, and how much of the costs the faculty member can provide (typically at least half).
- ◆ **Applications** should be sent no later than March 30, 2012, to:

Professor James Rosenbaum

Director of the IPR Summer Undergraduate RA Program

c/o Cynthia Kendall

Institute for Policy Research

2040 Sheridan Road

Evanston Campus

or e-mailed to c-kendall@northwestern.edu (see early application information below)

Criteria for Selection:

- ◆ Selection will be based on the student's academic record, the faculty member's proposed research, and the student's proposed role in that research.

Timing:

- ◆ The deadline for applications is March 30, 2012. However, students are strongly encouraged to apply as early as possible as limited program funding confers an advantage on those who do.
- ◆ The RA program is slated to begin June 18 and end September 7. However, work schedules are flexible. Faculty sponsors and students can negotiate start dates, necessary time off, and end dates.

Training:

At the beginning of the summer, IPR will offer an informal two-day course in statistical computing. Students will be taught how to use web-based social science data archive and data services. The course will also provide a basic introduction to STATA and SPSS statistical packages, in addition to some instruction on "how to be a good RA." Students can be excused from the course if the supervising faculty member determines that the course is not relevant to the summer research project.