Background:

In 2012, the Office of Provost Eric Jensen introduced a new initiative for students interested in assisting the university in furthering its commitment to and practice of diversity and inclusive excellence. Since then, the Office of Multicultural and Diversity Initiatives continues to offer up to two Summer Collaborative Research scholarships to undergraduate students and faculty advisors to address student concerns and university needs for strengthening our university climate and practice of diversity and inclusion activities in all realms of university life. Two student-scholars whose projects are selected participate in the well-established Hamline University Summer Collaborative Research program.

The intent of this research opportunity is to encourage careful study, analysis, problem-solving and action planning in response to a clearly-identified diversity challenge, dilemma, issue or need at Hamline University in particular or for college-student life, learning, and work in general. This program provides a stipend (and, if desired, campus housing and academic credit) to allow undergraduate students to pursue substantive critical research focused on diversity and inclusion issues at Hamline University. For a period of 10 weeks, between early June and early August, students work in close collaboration with a faculty collaborator. Funded students are expected to devote their full-time attention to the project at hand, meeting weekly with the other researchers for a seminar workshop on the status of projects. Each researcher will be expected to give oral presentations on their work during the workshop, as well as written midterm and final reports to the Student-Faculty Collaborative Research directors, Professor Alina Oxendine and Professor Paula Mullineaux (in addition to whatever requirements are defined by the faculty collaborator).

Scope of Research Projects

Since Hamline students are given the tools to foster “skills for successful lives of leadership, scholarship, and service” (Hamline Mission), this collaborative research grant provides student applicants an opportunity to further their leadership, scholarship, and service skills by addressing diversity related issues that affect the Hamline University community. Student leader-scholars will construct a multidisciplinary research project that demonstrates engagement with “community ethic of social justice, civic responsibility, and inclusive leadership and service” (Hamline Values).

Successful projects will be anchored in the context of University life and will offer recommendations and solutions to clearly identified diversity issues, dilemmas and opportunities at the university. Proposals should identify a specific university diversity dilemma,
issue, concern or opportunity that you would like to research and offer recommendations for problem-solving.

Specifically, proposals should answer the following questions:

(1) What specific issue/problem have you identified? Why is this an important issue to address for a campus community?
(2) What is the specific area of university life you wish to research (e.g., recruitment and retention of students, staff and/or faculty, curricular/classroom, co-curricular, campus climate, alumni, university relationship with community)?
(3) Which university stakeholders will your research involve (e.g., students, staff, faculty, administrators, alumni, entire university community, external community, neighborhoods)?
(4) What resources do you anticipate needing for your research? Consider financial, human, archival, travel resources.
(5) What outcomes do you anticipate?

**What Gets Funded?**

Any collaborative project focused on diversity and inclusion—defined as critical research in any discipline, critical study across disciplines or focused engagement in field/service work and research—is eligible for this grant program. A committee of faculty will review all applications and choose one or more projects to be funded.

The selection committee will consider the following when identifying which proposals will be funded.

(1) Is the proposal clearly written?
(2) Is the proposal grounded in Hamline University’s definition of diversity?
(3) Is the goal/outcome of the project clearly articulated?
(4) Is the methodology appropriate for the question asked?
(5) Is the proposed project feasible?
(6) Is the importance of the project clearly communicated?

**Selection Process:** Project proposals must be clearly marked “Diversity Summer Collaborative Research” and submitted to diversity@hamline.edu by 11:59 p.m. March 27, 2015. The selection committee comprises of faculty members from the Diversity Initiatives Steering Committee representing all Hamline University Schools. Selected projects will be submitted to the Summer Collaborative Research directors and communication and coordination of activities related to the summer work will come from the directors of the Summer Collaborative Research Program.

**Funding:** Each student receives a summer grant of $2500, disbursed in biweekly checks throughout the 10-week program, pending a continuous, successful fulfillment of the program expectations. Each student is expected to fill out a biweekly timecard, to indicate engagement with the project. It is assumed that 35-40 hours per week will be committed to your work on
the project, if not more. On-campus housing is available at no cost to participants, and can be requested in your application.

**Workshops:** For three hours once a week, students (and, as often as possible, faculty colleagues) meet to check in on general progress and to hear presentations from two to four of the researchers. These workshops are mandatory. In those rare cases where research activities or other excusable absences create unavoidable scheduling conflicts, the student researcher must advise and receive approval from the faculty collaborator and the summer collaborative research seminar directors (Professors Oxendine and Mullineaux).

**Reports:** The ultimate assessment of your project’s progress is up to you and your faculty colleague. However, the program requires two substantive reports. One report defines your midterm progress (due in early July); the second is a final analysis of the Summer’s accomplishments (due after the workshop ends, by mid-August).

**Outcomes:** In addition to fulfilling whatever goals you set for yourself in your collaborative research, if selected for participation in the summer program, you will be encouraged to submit your project for presentation at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR), and required to present to university leaders during the following academic year.

**What Do I Need To Do Right Now?**

- Consult with your faculty colleague to define collaboratively the scope and significance of your project, its objectives as well as individual and collective outcomes.
- Begin drafting, and revising, your application, frequently checking in with your collaborator. You are also welcome to consult on your draft with other university staff who would be good resources for you.
- Be sure that your application is understandable to persons who are not experts in your field.
- Submit all four components (noted below) of the application by **Friday, March 27**, as MSWord or PDF attachments submitted via email to diversity@hamline.edu
- The committee will convene and make decisions in early April.
- Upon notification of selection, students must accept the offer and attend an introductory meeting of all Hamline University summer research students in mid April (exact date to be determined).

**Further Questions**

As you are considering and/or working on your proposal, please feel free to consult with Veena Deo (vdeo@hamline, 651-523-2307) if you have any questions about this opportunity.