What is the Millender Fellowship?

The Millender Fellowship was established in memory of Robert L. Millender, Sr., a leading black Detroit political figure who died Nov. 14, 1978. The fellowship honors his political contributions and promotes his concerns about public service and minority representation in government. The annual fellowship program is designed to assist minority* men and women in achieving distinguished accomplishment in public service-oriented careers. Fellows are assigned to high-level responsibilities with top executives in Detroit area organizations in public, private and nonprofit areas. The program goal is to provide the encouragement, experience and relationships that are so necessary to develop an ever-growing pool of public service-oriented minority leaders.

Previous fellows have served in the offices of the mayor of Detroit, Detroit Economic Growth Corp., New Detroit, Inc., Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments and similar agencies. Fellows receive a nine-month stipend of $28,000 plus fringes. The appointment starts in late August and ends in early May. The fellowship does not cover tuition and fees.

In 2001-2002, the Millender Fellow will be assigned to the Economic Alliance for Michigan, a state-wide coalition of business and union leaders engaged in a cooperative, action-oriented effort to deal with health care and other public policy issues.

*As defined for the purposes of Title VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must demonstrate a record of successful accomplishment in some graduate educational program and/or through equivalent experience, broadly related to a public service career (law, political science, business and/or public administration, etc.) which would demonstrate a capacity for high-level accomplishment. Writing, research, computer and internet skills are important. Applicants must have completed a master's degree or equivalent professional degree by the start of the fellowship.

How do I Apply?

Applicants should supply: 1) a curriculum vitae; 2) a letter of interest in the fellowship, specifying career goals and future intentions, how the fellowship will contribute toward career goals, and the applicant's qualifications to undertake the responsibilities of the program; 3) at least three letters of reference, including one from an individual currently active in public service, if possible; 4) official undergraduate and graduate transcripts. Applications are due no later than March 31 to:

Marie Draper Dykes
Associate Provost for Academic Programs
Wayne State University
656 West Kirby
4116 Faculty/Administration Building
Detroit, MI 48202