Massachusetts Institute for College and Career Readiness (MICCR):  
Creating Working Alliances Among Researchers, Policy Makers and Education Officials

Soliciting Applications to Become a Senior Research Fellow with MICCR
We will begin reviewing applications October 15, 2014

MICCR Website: http://sites.bu.edu/miccr/

MICCR is a collaboration between Boston University’s School of Education, MassINC’s Gateway Cities Innovation Institute (GCII), and the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy that was developed in close partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MA ESE)

Made Possible by a Grant from the Institute of Education Sciences
The Massachusetts Institute for College and Career Readiness Gateway Cities Project:

Overview
Many of us are interested in our research being perceived as more relevant to educators and having a greater impact on policy decisions. With support from the Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences, we invite you to apply to become a Senior Research Fellow with the Massachusetts Institute for College and Career Readiness (MICCR). Senior Research Fellows will provide consultation to a community team of district administrators and elected officials interested in topics related to improving the college and career readiness outcomes of youth. The communities being selected to participate are those that often have limited access to research support. The goal of this three-year project is to more effectively enable these communities to engage in evidence based decision-making by providing them with the research consultation needed to interpret data, design survey or small experimental studies, or develop communication materials to share with their local community. By serving as a Senior Research Fellow, you will join a national cohort of mid-career researchers with an unique opportunity to become part of an district/city interdisciplinary team as well as to learn from educators and policy makers how to frame research questions in ways that are more relevant to their needs as well as to learn how research can shape education policy.

Focus on College and Career Readiness
MICCR is designed to promote the use of education research in the design, implementation and evaluation of college and career readiness policies and programs to enhance student’s post-secondary education and workforce readiness skills. It is expected that the district/city teams will be requesting support to address one or more of five college and career readiness areas: a) use the state early warning indicator system (EWIS) to decrease dropout rates and improve college and career readiness skills by identifying students who are not making adequate academic progress; b) provide systems of academic support to help students who have not yet acquired their Competency Determination; c) establish an individualized learning plan (ILP) that articulates the academic courses and out-of-school workforce development activities needed to support every student’s self-defined career and life goals; d) increase workforce readiness competencies by expanding the range and quality of work-based learning opportunities and apprenticeships available to students; and e) support more intensive whole school reform and turnaround efforts for the state’s lowest performing schools. Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in partnership with other state partners, has provided a range of tools and resources to support these efforts including: free-access for schools to use an online career information system; resources to support credit generation and recovery; dropout prevention and reduction initiatives; and college and career readiness supports in STEM-related fields.

By soliciting a national pool of mid-career researchers, or intention is to match each Senior Research Fellow with a community team consisting of school district administrators, teachers, community members and city officials.
**Goals and Objectives**

MICCR’s overarching goal is to improve college and career readiness to pursue and successfully complete a post-secondary training or education program by enabling strong evidence-based collaborations between district and city officials. We envision two outcomes: (1) district and city officials will be able to more effectively use evidence to guide decision-making, program selection, and implementation, and (2) Senior Research Fellows will learn how to more effectively collaborate with community stakeholders and translate complex research in ways that can be understood by a lay audience.

**What the MICCR Offers Participating Researchers**

The MICRR will provide each participating researcher:

- The opportunity to be assigned to one Gateway city Team comprising of a minimum of six district and city/town officials. The match will be based on the researcher’s interest and expertise. Through this match, participating researchers are able to collaborate with district educators and public policy officials, become more aware of how to design education research that is relevant and meaningful to local school districts and communities, and gain experiences in designing research-based communication materials in a way that translates data in meaningful ways for a lay audience.
- An annual two-day workshop will serve as a critical development opportunity in which each researcher will work with their assigned Gateway City Team to develop and update their projects. To support teams with their individual initiatives, a range of college and career readiness subject matter experts and statistics consultants will be available during the workshop. As MICCR researchers, you will receive funding that covers the cost of travel, lodging, and daily per diem. IES does not allow the use of federal funds for stipends.
- A standing bi-monthly meeting will help you and your assigned team successfully design and implement your projects. The goal of these communications is to identify other areas of support you may need to successfully reach your project goals.
- Webinar symposia meant to guide and support project implementation through continued explorations of best practice. Our intention is to highlight both the research knowledge base on specific topics in the five content areas, as well as highlight specific college and career readiness efforts by the teams.
- Quarterly Policy Forums will be held to bring together state policymakers, opinion leaders, researchers, business people, and educators. In addition to fostering constructive dialogue on college and career readiness education policy and practice, gatherings will highlight Gateway City Teams implementation plans and progress.
- Professional and technical support from the CoPIs and nationally recognized research methodologists (Drs. Geoffrey Borman and Cindy Walker).

**What Senior Research Fellows Provide**

All participating researchers are expected to:

- Consult with an assigned Gateway City Team comprising of a minimum of six district and city/town officials in a collaborative way as they develop and implement a work plan based on the team’s focus area and project proposal within Massachusetts’ college and career readiness efforts: early warning systems, academic remediation, individualized learning plans (ILPs), workforce readiness, and whole school reform.
- Attend three annual 2.5 day workshops at Boston University.
• Participate in quarterly professional development webinars and bimonthly team coordination meetings.

Project Management and Staffing
The MICRR is co-led by Boston University’s School of Education, MassInc’s Gateway Cities Innovation Institute (GCII), and the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy. Principal Investigators include: Scott Solberg, PhD, Associate Dean for Research and Professor, Counseling and Human Development, Boston University; Chad d’Entremont, PhD, Executive Director, Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy; and Benjamin Forman, M.A., Director of Research and Executive Director, Gateway Cities Innovation Institute, MassINC.

Qualifications and Expertise
We are looking for mid-career individuals who possess the following qualifications and expertise:

• Being U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States.
• A doctorate in education or a related field (e.g., psychology, sociology, economics, political science, history) and a commitment to a career in education research as a full-time researcher as indicated by a) employment within a tenure-track position at a research institution, b) employment within a center located at a research institution or c) employment within a center not located at a research university but whose mission is focused on producing research and/or policy analyses.
• An interest in the topic of college and career readiness.
• Published research on topics relevant to the college and career readiness themes that will be addressed by the MICCR project, which is recommended but not required.
• Experiences in working with school, community based organizations, or public officials on education policy or practice as indicated by a letter(s) of recommendation from someone representing one or more of these organizations.
• Willingness to learn from district and city officials on how to translate and communicate the relevance of research to a wide range of stakeholders.
• Expertise in using one or more quantitative, qualitative and/or mixed research methods and basic training in causal analysis including HLM, IV, Propensity Score Matching.
• A statement regarding how participation in MICCR will support your professional development.
• Ability to commit to three two-day Institutes, and the online quarterly and bimonthly meetings/professional development.
Application Process and Contact Information
To apply, please submit a C.V. and a letter to Drs. Scott Solberg and Chad d’Entremont C/O zichen@bu.edu with the subject heading “MICCR Application.” The letter of interest should address the following information:

- Your current position as a full-time researcher as indicated by a) employment within a university position at a research institution, b) employment within a center located at a research institution or c) employment within a center not located at a research university but whose mission is focused on producing research and/or policy analyses.
- Evidence of published research on topics relevant to the college and career readiness themes that will be addressed by the MICCR project.
- Evidence of being able to effectively collaborate with schools, community-based organizations, or public officials on education policy or practice as indicated by a letter(s) of recommendation from someone representing one or more of these organizations.
- A statement regarding how participation in MICCR will support your professional development including specific development goals.
- Evidence that you will be able to commit to all of the program activities throughout the three-year project cycle (e.g., three annual two-day conferences, webinars, and bimonthly Team phone conferences).
- Names and contact information of three references.

*Deadline: We will begin reviewing applications Wednesday, October 15, 2014.*

Remuneration:

- Senior Research Fellows will receive funding to cover travel to and from the annual MICCR Institute. Our grant does not allow us to offer stipends.