



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
James Lawson Institute for the Research
and Study of Nonviolent Movements

Announces the Research Fellows Grant

Applications open April 30, 2025

Selections will be made by June 30, 2025

Description of Change-Makers Fellows Cohort

The Change-Makers Fellows is a cohort of students who have interests and involvement with systemic change making organizations. The James Lawson Institute provides students with opportunities to learn about the practice of nonviolent direct action as embodied by Rev. James Lawson and his collaborators. The fellowship will aide students in acquiring principles and strategies necessary to become change agents within their communities, organizations, congregations, etc. in a sustainable nonviolent way.

Fellows are required to participate in this learning model and support their cohort peers in scheduled monthly sessions, and attendance at the spring retreat in April 2026.

Requirements

Applicants must have current involvement in organizations whose purpose directly reflects a commitment to addressing systemic social change.

Submit an essay of 350 words in response to these questions [using this link:](#)

1. How does the vision, mission, and aims of the James Lawson Institute align your current commitments?
2. How will being a Change-Maker Fellow contribute to my life's work and commitments?
3. How will you be an ambassador for others within Vanderbilt and the organizations in which you are involved?
4. How does your organization explicitly relate to nonviolence and justice work?

Provide a recommendation (from an academic, community, or religious leader) highlighting your ability to follow through on projects and ability to work with others.