

## **HRE USA 2026 Edmonds Summer Fellowship Project Summaries**

In August of 2020, Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA) lost one of its sustaining sources of inspiration and committed leadership – Kirby Edmonds. As a founding member of HRE USA, Kirby was instrumental in the establishment of HRE USA, directly shaping our mission statement, organizational structure, and most importantly our values framework and the consensus-based policy for decision-making. He served as Co-Chair of HRE USA for nearly a decade. In honor of his legacy, HRE USA has created the Edmonds Summer Fellowship to support hands-on leadership experience in human rights education and further Kirby's work to engage young people in building human rights-friendly schools and communities. Fellows are supported with ongoing mentoring, guidance, and human rights learning opportunities throughout the summer.

### **Project A: HRE USA Membership, Fundraising, and Sustainability Project**

**Overview:** This project will support development efforts by undertaking research and strategic outreach to strengthen the HRE USA network. The outputs of this fellowship will include strategic funding/development and membership research, development of a membership and fundraising plan and membership and campaign communication materials, implementation of the Edmonds Fellowship donation drive, and a summarizing fellowship report.

#### **General Fellowship Responsibilities:**

- Establish working relationship and meet weekly with supervisor to coordinate on goals, outputs and fellow needs
- Co-create fellowship work plan and timeline in consultation with supervisor
- Create 2-3 HRE USA member profiles to elevate ongoing, positive contributions of individuals to the human rights education community at large
- Complete final summer fellowship report and present report to the HRE USA Steering Committee in September 2026
- Produce a 3-5 minute highlight video of fellowship outcomes and impact

#### **Project Focused Fellowship Responsibilities:**

- Review effective membership and community donation drive examples to inform the HRE USA membership and fundraising plan
- Undertake research to identify potential foundation funding sources which align with the mission and strategic goals of HRE USA
- Develop a membership and fundraising plan for the annual Memberships, Sustainability Funders Circle, Edmonds Fellowship drive, the Year-End Campaign
- Design communication materials to articulate the HRE USA story to support the Sustainability Funders Circle and two fundraising campaigns
- Create the call lists for HRE USA members and program alumni
- Implement the Edmonds Fellowship donation drive

**Prospective Fellow Skills and Attributes:**

A prospective fellow would ideally have strong research, communications and outreach, development, organizational skills. The fellow would ideally demonstrate creative and innovative thinking. Knowledge of human rights and the human rights organizational landscape in the United States is also an advantage. The fellow should be willing to work collaboratively with invested HRE USA members, educators, and partners. The fellow should show a genuine and authentic commitment to issues related to human rights, human rights education, and equity.

**Project B: Human Rights Education Now! Podcast Expansion and Advocacy Project**

**Overview:** This project will support the expansion of the existing HRE USA Human Rights Education Now! Podcast program. The goals of this fellowship are to expand the podcast reach, improve production quality, and invest in a comprehensive public relations and marketing strategy to grow both audience and influence. Outputs will include the development of an outreach & engagement plan and recruit organizational co-sponsors to sustain the podcast.

**General Fellowship Responsibilities:**

- Establish working relationship and meet weekly with supervisor to coordinate on goals, outputs and fellow needs
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**Project Focused Fellowship Responsibilities:**

- Develop a comprehensive outreach and engagement plan for podcast expansion and sustainability. Plan will specifically focus on elevating younger voices on current events and intersections with human rights and emphasizing/empowering young people to challenge institutions in the face of diminishing freedom of expression
- Work to finalize the onboarding documentation and tutorials for future HRE podcast team members
- Establish plan and systems to integrate the diverse perspectives and experiences of guest podcast hosts, youth interviewers, producers, and disseminators
- Co-host 2 episodes and assist with organizing the production operations
- Edit 2 episodes for timely publishing at the first of the month.
- Reach out to 5-10 more co-sponsor organizations and build partnerships
- Raise money for the podcast with the [every.org](https://www.every.org) campaign
- Spread knowledge about the podcast to increase followers, especially on Instagram
- Manage lesson plans aligned with Podcast episodes with Podcast team guidance

**Prospective Fellow Skills and Attributes:**

A prospective fellow would ideally have strong research, communications and outreach, development, organizational skills. The fellow would ideally demonstrate creative and innovative thinking. Technical

skills in audio and visual production are an added strength. Knowledge of human rights and strategies for youth engagement in the United States is also an advantage. The fellow should be willing to work collaboratively with invested HRE USA members, educators, and partners. The fellow should show a genuine and authentic commitment to issues related to human rights, human rights education, and equity.

### **Project C: Human Rights Education Benefits and Impacts Project**

**Overview:** This project will support our HRE USA Leadership Team to creatively document the benefits and impacts of human rights education. The goals of this fellowship are to gather stories and create data visualizations to showcase the 15-years of Human Rights Educators USA's accomplishments. The stories and multimedia demonstrations should point to the opportunities and possibilities for our network in the next 15 years, including making human rights education linkages to other networks, associations, fields, and disciplines.

#### **General Fellowship Responsibilities:**

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#### **Project Focused Fellowship Responsibilities:**

- Analyze the HRE USA reports and linkages briefs, programs, website, and social media tools
- Develop our first HRE USA Storytelling Plan to illuminate the benefits and impacts of HRE USA
- Document the impacts of human rights education through stories and data visualizations
- Create a compelling intergenerational narrative around human rights education, ultimately contributing to the empowerment and advocacy of human rights
- Work with our communications team to integrate the outputs onto the HRE USA website and social media platforms

#### **Prospective Fellow Skills and Attributes:**

A prospective fellow would ideally have strong research, communications and outreach, development, and organizational skills. The fellow would ideally demonstrate creative and innovative thinking, as well as technical skills in audio and data visualization. The fellow should be willing to work collaboratively with invested HRE USA members, educators, and partners. The fellow should show a genuine and authentic commitment to issues related to human rights, human rights education, and equity.

## **Project D: HRE USA Training as Action Series Development & Evaluation**

**Overview:** This project advances the priorities of HRE USA by continuing the provision of a strong training and network building opportunity for our human rights education community at large. Through improving the overall organizational processes surrounding our Training as Action Series (TAAS), more educators and learners will be able to access quality and impactful human rights training year after year, contributing to our goal of empowering educators/learners to embody and implement human rights principles in their various contexts. By enhancing the sustainability of TAAS, our network will also add tangible value each year by both strengthening the national movement for human rights education and equipping hundreds of teachers/community activists with knowledge, skills, and mindsets to create change in our communities.

### **General Fellowship Responsibilities:**

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### **Project Focused Fellowship Responsibilities:**

- Develop and draft a sustainable monitoring and evaluation strategy to be utilized each year for TAAS, including the creation of data collection tools for the 2026-2027 series
- Curate TAAS 2026-2027 curriculum overview, training session topics and objectives, including recommendations for potential facilitation teams and linking the prioritized 2025-2026 theme
- Update and revise TAAS toolkit with new funding, communication, and evaluation strategies
- Set up registration process and promotional materials for TAAS 2026-2027
- Outreach to at least 20 potential co-sponsor organizations to secure funding for TAAS 2026-2027

### **Prospective Fellow Skills and Attributes:**

A prospective fellow would ideally have instructional design experience or experience developing virtual training opportunities. Monitoring and evaluation experience is highly desirable. Development and outreach experience, including fundraising and relationship cultivation with donors, is also preferred. The fellow would ideally demonstrate creative and innovative thinking. The fellow should be willing to work collaboratively with invested HRE USA members, educators, and partners. The fellow should show a strong knowledge of human rights education & genuine, authentic commitment to issues related to human rights, human rights education, and equity.