



CENTER FOR WHOLE COMMUNITIES

Whole Thinking Retreat Fellowship 2012 Nominations

Incredibly, 2012 marks Center for Whole Communities' 10th season of Whole Thinking Retreats! As a nominator, you play a crucial role in the success of the Whole Thinking Fellowship and the composition of retreat groups. We are deeply grateful to you for enabling us to share the impact of the Whole Communities approach with leaders around the country. You are helping grow our network of 1,100+ alumni, build toward united movements, and catalyze deeper change.

Before completing the online nomination form, please read the following Guidelines, Questions & Answers about the Fellowship Nomination Process.

2012 Nomination Process Timeline:

December 5, 2011:	Fellowship nomination materials are sent out.
January 15, 2012:	Nomination process <u>closes</u> .
February 15, 2012:	Fellowships are awarded. Info sessions available via conference call.
March 15, 2012:	Fellows accept or decline their awards through correspondence with CWC.
April 1, 2012:	CWC notifies Fellows about their retreat placement dates.

How are Fellows selected? Fellows are chosen based on the following criteria:

1. **Ability to engage with diverse perspectives:** The success of a retreat is dependent upon the ability of each participant to suspend judgment and assumptions while trusting their fellow participants to do the same. In order to create a safe space for participants, we must bring together individuals who can respect difference and have a willingness to recognize their blind spots.
2. **Change-making ability:** Leadership within organizations and movements takes many forms, and is not solely based on positional power or rank. We seek participants who are poised to take on, embrace, and/or continue working in leadership roles that will enact change.
3. **Connection to land & people:** Fellows whose work (paid or volunteer) relates to land and people in some significant way will find this program most relevant.
4. **Group composition:** The Center for Whole Communities remains committed to ensuring that each retreat group represents the breadth of diversity in our country and culture today. Diversity in all forms – including (but not limited to) **race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, and age** – is of paramount importance to the success of each group and the program at large.

How many people can I nominate? As an alumna/us of Center for Whole Communities, you have the opportunity to nominate two (2) individuals to receive Fellowships for our Whole Thinking program. As our programs and alumni base grow and evolve, the Fellowships become more competitive. We therefore ask that you ***selectively nominate two individuals*** (completing a separate nomination survey for each nominee). We sometimes reconsider nominees from previous years.

How can I increase the chances of a successful placement of my nominee? Due to volume, we are not able to offer a Fellowship to everyone for whom we receive a nomination. We also offer more Fellowships than spaces available, so placements are best secured through a timely response to the offer letter.

How can I track my nominee’s status? We will notify you by email if your nominee has been extended an invitation. We will also ask for your support in encouraging them to accept the Fellowship within a timely manner, as you will be listed in their award letter as the person who made this Fellowship possible. We will notify you by email if we were unable to award your nominee(s) a Fellowship.

In which sectors do Fellows commonly work? The Whole Thinking program gathers leaders who aspire to create stronger, more integrated movements for social and environmental change. These leaders might work within – and across – the spheres of:

- *Land & ocean conservation*
- *Food security*
- *Anti-oppression*
- *Corporate social responsibility*
- *Climate change*
- *Sustainable agriculture*
- *Environmental justice*
- *Social justice*
- *Human rights*
- *Government*
- *For-profit corporations*
- *And more ...*

How can the nomination process serve my movement goals? We encourage you to nominate someone who might help you grow Whole Communities work in your community or region. As you contemplate your selections, we ask you to consider the Whole Communities quadrant framework (below) that we introduced in your retreat. Bringing together a balance of **leaders from each quadrant** is key to the success of this program, and our social and environmental change movements as a whole. Whole Communities leadership is about reconnecting, re-localizing and bridging relationships. Nominating someone who works outside of your particular quadrant may help you bridge relationships and expand your own Whole Communities network.

