Bonner Leaders Program Overview

The UNC Charlotte Bonner Leaders Program develops civic leaders by connecting students to Charlotte-area organizations through curriculum, internships, and community-based research in order to achieve a just and equitable society.
Dr. Tamara Johnson

As Director of Engaged Scholarship in Urban Research and Community Engagement, Dr. Johnson works to elevate the culture of civic learning and community engagement at UNC Charlotte by creating pathways, processes, and connections that make community-based research and learning in the Charlotte area more accessible for faculty and students. She studied as a Fulbright Scholar in South Africa and received a Ph.D. in Geography from UNC Chapel Hill in 2011.
Urban Research and Community Engagement
Bonner Leaders Program Community Placement

Funded through Federal Work Study

10-13 hours/week at $12/hour
Program Expectations and Opportunities
Bonner Leaders Program Overview

YEAR 1
- HEALTH

YEAR 2
- Asset-Based Community Development
- Communications and Marketing
- Programming Development and Training
- Fundraising

YEAR 3
- Policy Research
- Data Collection
- Undergraduate Research

YEAR 4

UCOL 1000
LBST 2215
Optimist Park Community Project
Captone Project

Social Action
Bonner Leaders Program Community Partners
Bonner Leaders Assembly – Mondays 3pm

- Program Orientation
- Leadership skill-building
- Identity and Engagement
- Business Ethics
Bonner Leaders Critical Thinking Course (Spring Semester)

- Builds on asset-based mapping assignment in Fall semester course
- Examines civic responsibility
- Explores Charlotte’s historical context for racial disparity
- Engages with local knowledge and grassroots organizations
Annual Charleston Trip

- MLK Weekend
- Examining an Old South City
- Community-Building
Optimist Park Project
Where is Optimist Park?
Gentrification in Optimist Park

Charlotte Gentrification Map: 2000 Census - Present
Click a tract to display its demographic data:

Map Key
- Tract gentrified
- Tract did not gentrify
- Tract not eligible to gentrify

Community Engagement as a Key Pillar for Activities and Action Plan
Empowerment through Knowledge and Resources

- Engage Elected Officials
- Tax Relief Fund Development
- Communication Strategy
- Oral History Project
- Financial and Computer Literacy