2019-20 Houston Centered Policy Challenge: Criminal Justice
Student Leadership Information and Application
APPLICATION DUE: April 15th at 11:59pm

Program Description
The Houston Centered Policy Challenge (HCPC) is an annual policy competition that enables Rice students to learn about and respond to a policy issue facing Houston leaders and residents. Participants work together in teams, learn about the policy issue through independent research and interaction with campus and community experts, and propose community-focused policy solutions to a judges’ panel of local leaders. The program is planned and executed by a team of three student coordinators under the guidance of CCL staff. The policy issue focus for HCPC 2019-20 will be criminal justice.

HCPC Student Coordinator Roles and Responsibilities

As a 2019-20 HCPC coordinator, you will:

- learn deeply about the issue of criminal justice, including specific concerns, challenges, practices, and policies in the City of Houston and Harris County
- engage directly with local leaders and stakeholders currently addressing criminal justice issues and policies in the Houston area
- introduce fellow students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives to civic leadership through an engaged, community-focused approach to advocacy and public policy
- plan and execute activities and events that will educate participants on the issue of criminal justice and prepare them to design and present their own policy proposals

HCPC Coordinator responsibilities begin in summer of 2019, and finish shortly after the competition event in late February 2020.

During Summer* 2019, HCPC coordinators will:
- research the policy issue
- identify key Houston area stakeholders
- compile a bibliography of resources for participants
*All summer responsibilities can be done remotely, and do not require students to be in residence in Houston.

During Fall 2019, HCPC coordinators will:
- Work with CCL staff to advertise the program widely to students across campus
- Manage participant registration, including team matchmaking for students who sign up individually
• Communicate directly with participants and issue stakeholders
• Meet with campus and community issue experts and determine who could best serve as program speakers, panelists, and judges
• Develop an e-folder of issue-related resources for participants
• Plan and execute program events (e.g., program kick off, community expert panel)
• Participate in team advising meetings

During Spring 2020, HCPC coordinators will:
• Plan and execute program events (e.g., faculty workshop, competition event)
• Participate in team advising meetings

Houston Centered Policy Challenge Student Leadership Application

Application Instructions: Please complete the CCL general application through the “Apply Now” portal, https://ccl.rice.edu/application/ (select Houston Centered Policy Challenge Coordinator) and then upload this section as a PDF under “Supplemental Materials”. This upload option will appear after you hit “submit” within the application portal. Please include your short answer responses in a single PDF. Any questions may be directed to the CCL Director of Programs and Partnerships, Elizabeth Vann, evann@rice.edu

As preparation to lead student participants and interact with Houston stakeholders on the issue of criminal justice, HCPC coordinators will complete an in-depth study of the issue over the summer. This work will include a broad understanding of the issue, major debates, challenges, and current policies in the Houston area, and a list of key local stakeholders on this issue. Why are you motivated to spend time acquiring a deeper understanding of criminal justice-related issues and policies affecting the Houston area? (250 words)

In addition to studying the issue of criminal justice themselves, HCPC coordinators will facilitate the learning and growth of their peers. As a Learn Level program in the Center for Civic Leadership, HCPC aims to introduce students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives to civic leadership through an engaged, community-focused approach to advocacy and public policy. What do you see as the value of such a program for student participants? (250 words)

Coordinating HCPC involves planning and executing a series of events and communicating effectively with student participants, CCL staff, campus and community stakeholders, vendors, and others. Please describe your experience with and approach to event planning, logistics, and communication with multiple and diverse audiences. Include an example of a strategy or approach that has worked well for you as well as a situation or challenge that you have learned from. (250 words)