

## OUR MISSION

The **Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty** (SHECP) encourages the study of poverty as a complex social problem, by expanding and improving educational opportunities for college students in a wide range of disciplines and career trajectories. Through its programs, **SHECP** and its member institutions prepare students for a lifetime of professional and civic efforts to diminish poverty and enhance human capability, while also supporting connections among students, faculty, staff, and alumni engaged in the study of poverty.



**SHECP** is a collaboration among **25 colleges and universities** that integrates classroom study of poverty with summer internships and co-curricular activities.



In 2018, **SHECP** provided **130** students with summer internships, in **21** geographic locations, with **96** poverty-focused nonprofit and government agencies.



**SHECP** interns provided **36,400 hours of service**, over the course of **eight weeks**, in 2018. Interns are a force multiplier, building capacity for our nonprofit partners.

*"A knowledgeable and sympathetic graduate pool may be the most important advance to diminish U.S. poverty since the War on Poverty."*

— David Bradley

Executive Director  
National Community Action Foundation

## THE NEED

An estimated **40 million Americans live in poverty (12.3 percent of the population)**, according to a 2018 report issued by the United States Census Bureau.

Higher education in the U.S. is not meeting the demand from students aspiring to consider the moral and social problems associated with poverty. **SHECP** fills that gap by offering a sustained education to understand the complexities of poverty.

Through classroom study and experiential learning opportunities, these future professionals learn how their work and civic activity will inevitably impinge on poverty. **We need your support to sustain and grow our program.**

**OUR VISION:** *To equip college students to address the problem of poverty, as future professionals and citizens, by expanding and improving opportunities to study the meanings, causes, and consequences of poverty in a wide range of disciplines.*

## THE CONSORTIUM

The Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty (SHECP) was formally established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in July 2012; however, it began in 1998 as the "Shepherd Poverty Alliance," a poverty studies program founded by Washington and Lee University and allied with Berea College and Spelman College.

SHECP is currently comprised of:

Baylor University  
Berea College  
Birmingham-Southern College  
Bucknell University  
Centre College  
College of Wooster  
Elon University  
Furman University  
John Carroll University  
Juniata College  
Manchester University  
Marymount University  
Middlebury College  
Millsaps College  
Niagara University  
Ohio University  
The Cleveland Clinic Lerner College  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
University of Lynchburg  
University of Notre Dame  
University of St. Thomas  
University of Vermont  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Virginia Military Institute  
Washington and Lee University

*We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of accountability and efficiency. SHECP is proud to be a GuideStar Platinum Nonprofit Profile participant.*



## LEARNING BY DOING

SHECP seeks to transform the study of **poverty in the United States** by building a vibrant consortium of colleges and universities that lead the development of undergraduate poverty studies programs and the support of innovative work in poverty-related pedagogy.

The poverty studies curricula begins with a gateway course followed by community-focused learning opportunities through the **SHECP Summer Internship Program**.

This **eight-week program pairs students with nonprofit organizations** that work to strengthen impoverished communities. Located in both urban and rural sites, they focus on a wide variety of poverty-related areas, including: education, healthcare, legal services, housing, nutrition, social and economic needs, and community-building efforts.

Students are matched with agencies that fit their intellectual interests in order to **develop professional experience and skills for future civic involvement and employment**.

What's unique about our program is that the internships offer an **experiential learning opportunity** that encompasses more than work experience, as students live with fellow interns as a cohort within the communities they serve.

Our internship program is bookended by a preparatory opening conference and a closing conference where **SHECP interns share what they've learned from their experiences**. Many continue their studies through capstone projects when they return to their campuses. **To date, 1,130 interns have taken part in the program.**

