

MEMO TO: All Southern Staff
FROM: David Dennis, Southern Program Director
RE: Recruitment for the Field Fellowship Program

Enclosed you will find applications from the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for their field fellowship program. This program is an effort on the part of SEDF to provide means by which college students can become involved in the Movement. It will aid students in their studies and at the same time give them experience in social work. It will introduce them in a constructive way to the social problems of their country and how they affect them now and in the future as prospective leaders of this country.

We are able to have 60 students in this program--50 in Louisiana, 5 in South Carolina and 5 in Northern Florida. SEDF has sent out applications both to field staff and colleges for recruiting students for this program: so far, about 10 have applied. I feel very strongly that the reason so few have responded to this project is that very few students know about it. Therefore, it is our responsibility to begin a major recruiting effort on the college campuses of our area, to get college students involved.

Enclosed you will find both an application from the SEDF and an explanation letter about qualifications for the grant, etc. These can be reproduced by whatever means you have available. To qualify for a grant, the student must also be accepted to a summer project, so please make sure they also fill out an application to the CORE summer project.

We have about one week left to recruit; the school year is almost over. I humbly plead to all staff members that you do all you can to begin a major recruitment of students from Negro college campuses. You should have the enclosed applications reproduced and distributed on all campuses in your area. Try to meet with the students themselves, to interest them in the project. All applications must be sent to me, in care of the CORE Southern Office, by May 30. Students will be notified immediately as to whether they have been accepted or not.

Field staff have long complained about the small number of Negro college students who participate in the Movement today. We have come to the conclusion that the reason the number is so small is that so few can afford to work as volunteers, and the Civil Rights Movement has not been able to finance them in the past. Today, we have the means to finance the students, and it is up to us to recruit them.

This is a new project. none of us has had much time to work on it. Therefore, I am not blaming you for not doing anything on this project in the past, for it is quite possible you did not know about it. But, as in all emergencies, we must unite our efforts and push together. And this, I must say, is an emergency.

In the name of Freedom.