Upon returning to school, Belin-Blank fellows will be able to:

Integrate new understandings about gifted and talented children, as well as effective strategies into the regular curriculum;

Nurture the social and emotional needs of gifted students;

Suggest teaching strategies that will allow for variations in content, process, product, and environment according to student need;

Provide information about the counseling needs of gifted and talented students;

Inform parents of gifted and talented students about appropriate opportunities and services;

Review new information and teaching strategies with classroom teachers and interested staff and community members;

Effectively collaborate with district teachers/coordinators for gifted programs.

In meeting the goals and objectives of the fellowship, participants will:

Discuss research pertaining to the academic, social, and emotional needs of gifted learners, including twice-exceptional children;

Investigate and analyze the theories underpinning the implementation of gifted education;

Study various processes for the discovery of gifted and talented students, including above-level testing;

Critique curriculum provisions in gifted education;

Objectively explore the unique needs of culturally, linguistically, ethnically, and geographically gifted and talented students;

Visualize new ways to foster the social development of gifted and talented students;

Explore best practices for gifted learners, including appropriate content, processes, products, and environments;

Review and analyze programming to meet the needs of gifted students and undertake research in areas of personal interest in gifted education.

The fellowship provides:

Readings as well as presentations from leaders in gifted education;

Discussions with peers to strengthen aspirations for academic year 2023-2024;

Fellows may enroll in 2 graduate credits and receive an automatic tuition scholarship that covers half the cost of graduate tuition ($605 for TWO hours).
WHO WAS CONNIE BÉLIN?
Connie Belin was a dedicated leader in education—especially gifted education—in the State of Iowa. In addition to her work as a teacher, school board member, member of the state Board of Regents, and member of the President’s Commission on Presidential Scholars, she served on the board of the Iowa Talented and Gifted Association (ITAG) and on the Iowa State Department of Public Instruction Advisory Committee on Programs for the Gifted and Talented. Connie Belin passed away in 1980, and the original Fellowship Program for Teacher Training in Gifted Education was established with a generous gift from her friends, Jacqueline and Myron Blank.

WHO WAS JACQUELINE N. BLANK?
Jacqueline N. Blank had an impressive history of public service and philanthropy. Jackie and her husband, Myron (Mike), were the co-founders of the Belin-Blank Center and were recognized as “Outstanding Friends of the University” by the University of Iowa. Jackie served as Trustee for the Des Moines Art Center, as a member of the Advisory Board for the University of Iowa Foundation, and as Honorary Co-Chair of Variety Club Telethon. She was also Honorary Co-Chair of the Belin-Blank Center Advisory Board. Jackie Blank passed away in 2002.

HOW IS THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED?
In the spring, teachers selected for the program receive materials and brief tasks to complete. During the summer, an intensive five-day workshop will be held from July 17 - 21. Participants need to dedicate those days to lively interaction with others, as well as readings/podcasts/videos to prepare for each day. Fellows may enroll in two graduate-level credits (50% tuition scholarship provided).

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM’S PHILOSOPHY?
Over forty years of experience have shown that the most effective way to provide meaningful education to gifted students is to provide a special program for educators. In this way, professionals will have the skills to work with gifted students as well as the knowledge and skills to provide leadership for other teachers.

Varying approaches to professional development in gifted education exist, but no program provides the incentives for educators, as well as the intensive individualized approach, offered by this fellowship program. The Belin-Blank Fellowship Program in Gifted Education makes it possible for a select number of individuals, recommended by their schools, to participate in professional development in gifted education.

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM’S PURPOSE?
The Fellowship Program is a unique opportunity for educators to learn more about the area of gifted education. Its purpose is to help professionals learn better methods for working with gifted children in their classrooms/schools. The program is designed to:
1) give educators the tools to provide appropriate education for gifted students;
2) help professionals develop in students a heightened sense of social responsibility in the use of their talents; and
3) provide leadership in gifted education.

Apply Online:
belinblank.org/fellowship

THE GOAL OF THE BELIN-BLANK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IS TO HELP PARTICIPANTS:
Learn effective new ways to discover gifted and talented students and meet their unique affective needs;
Enhance their abilities to meet the different academic needs of gifted/talented students;
Act as an effective resource in gifted education for other educators in their schools and districts;
Review their new knowledge and skills for applications to ALL learners in their classes;
Nurture the sense of social responsibility in the use and development of talents among gifted students.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:
Dr. Laurie Croft, Associate Director for Professional Development at the Belin-Blank Center, is the lead instructor.

Guest speakers from the Belin-Blank Center, UI College of Education, can include faculty such as:
- Dr. Susan Assouline, Professor & Director Emerita;
- Dr. Clar Baldus, Clinical Professor Emeritus
- Dr. Nicholas Colangelo, Director Emeritus;
- Dr. Megan Foley-Nicpon, Director, Research and Clinic
- Dr. Randy Lange, Administrator, Professional Development & Curriculum