

# JOHNSON COUNTY GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

## Position Announcement

The Johnson County Board of Supervisors seeks a 50% graduate student research assistant for Summer 2023 to help develop a planned exhibit celebrating Dr. Lulu Merle Johnson. The county is building an interpretive exhibit acknowledging the life and achievements of Dr. Johnson, the first African American woman to earn a PhD from the University of Iowa and the county's newly designated eponym. This exhibit will complement two historic properties recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places—Tate Arms and the Iowa Federation Home—which acknowledge the contributions of Iowa City's African American community to provide housing and other support for black students studying at the university during segregation.

Applicants must be enrolled in a master's or doctoral program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), have a background in modern American history, and possess a strong interest in one or more of the following: African American history, Iowa history, community studies, women's and gender history, public history, and museum studies. Strong communication skills and public speaking experience are desirable.

The research assistant will work twenty hours per week from 15 May 2023 through 3 August 2023 with the project historian on all aspects of developing exhibit content and preparing research materials for archival storage. Specific tasks will include:

- co-creating recorded oral history interviews and transcribing the recordings for archival purposes;
- participating in community outreach meetings and listening sessions;
- collaborating with the project historian to write interpretive content;
- attending meetings of the planning and design team; and
- organizing research materials for archival storage.

Interested applicants should submit the required application materials no later than 5 pm on February 17 to Rebecca Conard, project historian, at [rebeccaconard@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaconard@gmail.com) and Allison Wells, Grants Assistant, Johnson County Board of Supervisors at [awells@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:awells@johnsoncountyiowa.gov), and copied to [gabriella-mcdermott@uiowa.edu](mailto:gabriella-mcdermott@uiowa.edu), Operations Specialist for Graduate Education (CLAS).

Application requirements:

- Cover letter explaining the applicant's interest in this project, and their skills and preparation to undertake this work
  - Curriculum Vitae
  - Two letters of recommendation
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