

## Vicki B. Stocking

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**From:** Vicki B. Stocking  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 9:22 AM  
**To:** Vicki B. Stocking  
**Subject:** Invitation: Exploration and Launch Summer 2024: Sign up by October 1!

Scholars, we enjoyed spending time with many of you at the Community Meeting and Dinner September 8. The themes of connection, community, and sharing deep experiences are a great introduction to Exploration and Launch Summer 2024! There's a lot of info in this email, and 75 Robertsons eligible for Exploration or Launch Summer, so thank you for reading carefully.

Two quick points first:

- We are asking you to already have a [Coach](#) on board when and if you say "yes" to Summer 2024.
- The Exploration and Launch Summer workshop has been moved to October 27. Details TBA.

Robertson Summers provide powerful opportunities for Scholars who are willing to open their hearts and minds to the work of transformation. Scholars who truly engage in a Robertson Summer—from the earliest questions through ongoing reflection—allow themselves to be changed by the experience. Robertson Summers are built on our leadership model and reflect:

- Deepening connections with others. At the very least, you'll work closely with a [Summer Coach](#).
- Exploring new places, ideas, and activities, including those that are creative, deeply personal, and/or outside the apparent bounds of academic and professional aspirations.
- Practicing powerful leadership skills involving integrity, voice, and power. You'll be "in charge" or your ideas and plans and will see that the process of Summers are an exercise in integrity.
- Taking on personal responsibility and making decisions. Scholars are amazed at how they grow from the chance to take care of themselves in new ways.
- Curiosity and commitment. These form the very backbone of the Summers process.
- Grappling with strengths, weaknesses, purpose, and motivations. Robertson Summers are challenging by design—by our design of the process and the way you will design for learning and growth.
- Learning when and how to ask for help. This is one of the hardest lessons for leaders to learn!

Exploration and Launch Summer is an opportunity to create an experience that deepens your own leadership journey. These Summers are about *how you want to learn and grow in leadership*. No Robertson Summer is exactly like another—there is no "typical" or "ideal" Summer. The lists of projects posted on the [resource page](#) reflect the diversity of approaches and experiences Scholars have taken on, as well as the range of individuals who have served as Summer Coaches.

**Say "yes" or "no" [here](#) by October 1.**

- If you say "yes": You are taking responsibility for your Robertson Summer. We will support you through the process as you request. As we do with other Robertson leadership opportunities, we are depending on you to communicate. You are agreeing to these steps:
  - You will work closely throughout the process with the [Summer Coach](#) you have identified. [This list](#) include Alumni specifically interested in being a Coach, although you are not required to work with an Alum Coach.
  - You will complete a quick Progress Report by **December 20**.
  - You will submit a complete proposal and budget by **March 1, 2024** to ensure timely funding. You will have an opportunity to apply for an April 1 deadline for some special cases.
  - You will prepare necessary materials such as risk management forms and travel requirements, such as registering international trips.

- You will complete the relevant reflection processes **August 2024**.
- If you say “no”: That’s fine! We trust your judgment. All other elements of Robertson programming are still available to you (e.g., LEAD grants).
- If you do not say “yes” by October 1, you are actually saying “no.”

### **Do you need help deciding? Robertson Exploration and Launch Summers are a big commitment!**

- Come to a Q & A session! These will not be presentations, so we will ask you to read through this email and associated materials carefully before you come.
  - September 18, 10-10:30 AM, [Zoom](#)
  - September 19, 9-10:30 AM, Community Breakfast at East Campus Gazebo. I’ll be excited to talk over coffee!
  - September 20, 4-4:30 PM, [Zoom](#)
  - September 21, 12-1:00 PM, UNC office
  - September 22, 9-10:00 AM, [Zoom](#)
- Read examples of “Recent Scholar Projects” on the [resource page](#).
- Review your Summer 2023 reflection for a reminder of what you learned and how you still want to grow.
- Talk Robertson Alumni and any older Robertsons. [This list](#) includes Alumni who are specifically interested in talking to you.
- Do some soul-searching and include people who know you. What’s missing for you? How can Summer 2024 be a chance to open your heart and mind to new places, activities, and experiences?

### **What happens between your “yes” and March 1, 2024?**

- You’ll work closely with your [Coach](#) and will include staff when you have a question or concern.
- You’ll use this [resource page](#) as your one-stop-shop for your Summer ideation and planning. The bulletin will have updates, too.
- You’ll work in a small group during the Summer Workshop October 27.
- You’ll have access to multiple support options, such as coaching conversations and rough drafts.
- Invite others to work on this with you! Propose work sessions to include older Robertsons so they can share ideas about topics like safety during travel, how to do a budget, etc. We’ll pay for coffee if you organize.
- You’ll be responsible for making sure that your complete proposal has [these components and meets these criteria](#).

### **A few logistics**

- You can say “yes” now and can drop out of the process later.
- You will be able to apply for up to \$6300.
- All Robertsons abide by [this list](#) and policy for international travel and sometimes additional policies.
- Robertsons are allowed to apply for DukeEngage group projects.
- Summer funding is not available for the credit-related costs of Summer school.

**Respond to this invitation with a “yes” or “no” by October 1 [here](#).**

### **Vicki Stocking**

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