Social Justice Internship 2016 Community Partner Opportunities

Several organizations, often directed by Carleton alumni, have a proven record of offering students meaningful internships. While students are welcome to pursue internships with other organizations, a few opportunities are listed below.

Applications for these Community Partner Opportunities are due March 15th via the Tunnel if you are a first year, sophomore, or junior. Seniors should apply via the staff person listed as a contact. Selected interns will then apply for Social Justice Internship funding or other Career Center funds.

1. Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, Twin Cities, with Michael Dahl and Lee Blons '82

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative consists of over 50 congregations across the metro area committed to ending homelessness. To reach our goal, we come together to:

- develop affordable and supportive housing,
- provide emergency shelter through our Families Moving Forward program, and
- advocate for the public policies and resources necessary to end homelessness.

Beacon congregations commit as institutions to work in a deep and meaningful way toward ending homelessness by becoming part of the collaborative. They agree to educate and mobilize members, to provide leadership, contribute financial resources, and invite other congregations into the collaborative. By working together toward a share vision and goals, congregations become stronger as institutions and have a greater community impact.

About the internship:

The internship is part of Beacon's New Projects Department. Working with the Advocacy Coordinator and Congregational Partnership Organizer, the intern will help Beacon congregations affect state and/or local public policy so that there are more resources to provide housing and serve people coming out of homelessness.

You will engage congregations and their congregants in advocacy to end homelessness. This will include helping Beacon Citizens (people who commit to take monthly actions) write letters to and meet with elected officials, as well as educate their community about homelessness and how to end it.

You may also work with a Congregational Partnership Organizer on an organizing campaign to secure approval and funding for a specific housing development in a community. This would include congregational presentations, events, and mobilizing support through postcards or letter writing campaigns.

As part of this work, the intern will attend meetings with other advocates and advocacy groups, meet with their elected leaders, and learn about how housing and services are delivered to people coming out of homelessness.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).

2. Growing Up Healthy, Rice County, MN, with Leah Eby '13

Growing Up Healthy works to increase the community connectedness of marginalized families in Rice County. We approach this mission through three interrelated areas of work:

1. The work of our community organizers ("Neighborhood Leaders"): Growing Up Healthy creates, trains, and supports teams of Neighborhood Leaders in 5 target neighborhoods throughout Rice County (primarily Latino immigrant and Somali refugee neighborhoods). Neighborhood Leaders are prepared to serve as advocates both within and beyond their neighborhoods, helping communities organize and providing a human bridge over many of the existing gaps – connecting people, programs and resources.

2. Systems change: Our second strategy is to identify and address policies and structures that can improve the lives of marginalized families. This work is directly informed by the work of the Neighborhood Leaders. Through consistent contact between the Growing Up Healthy Advisory Board and the cohort of Neighborhood Leaders, we hope to create a dialog between the directors of the partner agencies and the community members who utilize the programs.

3. Increased community education and awareness about the social determinants of health: Our third strategy involves educating the wider community about the connections between health and affordable housing, social connectedness, social policy, and wealth vs. poverty.

About the Internship:

While the particulars of this internship have not yet been fully defined, the primary task will be relationship building and community organizing. Helpful skills include: flexibility, cultural sensitivity, Spanish fluency, self-awareness, initiative, and a desire to learn community organizing. As part of this work, you will attend meetings with Growing Up Healthy Neighborhood Leaders and the Advisory Board, meet with program partners, and learn about your local community from a social justice perspective.

For more information, please contact Kelly Scheuerman (kscheuer).

3. HealthFinders, Rice County, MN, with Charlie Mandile '07

Since 2005, HealthFinders Collaborative (http://healthfindersmn.org/getinvolved/) has been providing a comprehensive and individualized access point to health and wellness opportunities. Our primary care services address immediate and ongoing needs, while an extensive patient advocacy program actively connects the under and uninsured with long-term resources and community programs. Depending on the intern's interest and HealthFinders' needs, positions include: Health and Wellness Intern, Evaluation Intern Marketing and Social Media Intern, and Patient Care Interns.

For more information, please contact Kelly Scheuerman (kscheuer).

4. IAF Northwest - Health Equity Organizing, Seattle WA, with Joe Chrastil '78

The IAF Northwest (http://iafnw.org/about-iaf-northwest) provides support and organizing assistance to its 9 affiliated organizations in WA, OR, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The affiliates unite diverse groups of religious, education, health, labor and community organizations around shared values: the inherent sacredness of all people -demanding that they be treated with dignity and respect – and the common good. Organizing practices are designed to acknowledge each person's uniqueness, break down biases and stereotypes, invest in leadership capacity and create relational trust that leads to action addressing the systemic causes of injustice.

In 2009, the IAF Northwest began working with students in the health sciences schools at the University of Washington (UW) to build an organization that would provide a vehicle for them to learn about and apply IAF community organizing practices to address the social determinates of health. Health Equity Circle (HEC) now has over 500 members at UW and chapters in Spokane and Portland. Together, HEC and the Sound and Spokane Alliances developed a class on "Health Equity and Community Organizing" that is offered for credit at the UW and on the WSU Spokane campus. Through HEC or their local Alliance, the students have carried out successful campaigns to protect funding for medical interpreters, expand free clinic care, increase services to the homeless and reduce immigrant detention.

Recently, the IAF Northwest expanded its health equity organizing initiative into work with residency programs and community clinics, beginning with the Swedish Family Medicine Residency Program at Cherry Hill. At Swedish, residents receive 4 hours of training per month equipping them to apply relational community organizing practices to engage their patients and build "power with" them to identify and address the barriers they experience in realizing positive health comes. Those clinics - Cherry Hill, Seattle Indian Health Board, Sea Mar and Carolyn Downs - all serve very diverse populations, including the most at-risk populations in the region.

Interns will learn and practice the basics of IAF organizing; building "power with"; doing relational meetings; conducting power analyses; running effective campaigns, etc. They will assist in the direct work of organizing patients in low-income community clinics as well as in larger research and communications projects.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).

5. Immigration Law Outreach, Southern MN, with John Keller P'13, Ben Casper '90, and Linus Chan.

There are exciting opportunities to build greater inclusion and equity in immigration law and policy in Minnesota, working both with individuals and organizations at local and national levels. The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota is the State's largest provider of free legal services for diverse immigrant and refugee communities. Additionally, ILCM's advocacy and education on immigration law and policy issues help build strong coalitions that address critical changes that make real differences. Recently, the

University of Minnesota Law School created a new clinical program, the Center for New Americans (CNA) that works collaboratively with organizations including ILCM. The ILCM and CNA partner to help expand representation to non-citizens facing removal proceedings and also in strategic litigation aimed to improve law and policy for immigrants. In order to help further these objectives, Carleton, ILCM, and the CNA are collaborating to host two Carleton interns.

Interns will report to John Keller P'13 at the ILCM and will work in partnership with Ben Casper '90 and Linus Chan at the CNA. The interns will be responsible for supporting legal and educational outreach to the immigrant community. This will include supporting our legal team with several types of intake and follow-up for those seeking assistance. Duties may include working with on-going cases, research, policy campaigns, and day-to-day support in all types of immigration cases. Policy work will include follow-up from the 2016 state legislative session as well as work on any federal opportunities such as naturalization campaigns and defining the positive impacts of immigrants in Minnesota to the public amidst the uncertainty created by election campaigns. Litigation support may include interviewing clients and drafting declarations, researching state and federal statutes, and compiling materials on human rights practices or other matter for use in immigration cases.

To qualify for the internships, students should ideally be able to speak Spanish and be interested in immigration law, education and policy. Flexibility and commitment to access and support for immigrants are also needed. The internships will be full time from June to August. Students will have an amazing opportunity to learn about cutting edge immigration work from individuals who are deeply committed to it, as well as the chance to contribute to implementing policies with the potential to change people's lives.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).

6. ISAIAH Faith-based Community Organizing, Greater MN, with Alexa Horwart

ISAIAH is a faith-based organization committed to being a vehicle for congregations and people of faith to work collectively for racial and economic justice in Minnesota. ISAIAH is grounded in using the principles and practices of community-based organizing to achieve its mission; the primary strategy of ISAIAH is to develop the capacity and leadership of grassroots people of faith and religious leaders to be agents of change in their communities and in Minnesota. ISAIAH is offering two possible internships:

Greater MN Economic Justice Internship
ISAIAH's work around economic justice has emerged over the past few years as central to the organization with ISAIAH being very involved in the campaigns to raise the minimum wage and maintain funding for public health care programs as well as leading the statewide campaign for paid family leave. At the same time, ISAIAH has begun building a strong network of churches in Greater MN. This internship would work with the lead Greater MN Organizer to develop a process for rural leaders to connect their life experience and stories to statewide campaigns for economic justice.

This work will likely include:

- Work with grassroots leaders in 3 congregations to hold house meetings and small group meetings around people's experience of our economy.

- Work with Greater MN Organizer to develop a leader-led analysis process to learn from small group meetings and develop both a report and a story-collection process.
- Connect report and stories to statewide campaigns around economic justice including paid family leave, paid sick time, universal health care, and debt-reduction.

Over a 10 week period and with mentorship from a senior organizer, a full time intern could work with 3 congregations and their clergy to host small group conversations and house meetings in each congregation as well as design, with congregational leaders, a collective analysis of how people in rural Minnesota are experiencing economic struggles. The intern will also help develop a plan to connect leaders in rural Minnesota to statewide campaigns around economic justice. An intern must have access to a car.

Greater MN Voter Engagement Internship
ISAIAH is committed to beginning a voter engagement program in the summer of 2016 that will engage unlikely voters in congregations and communities in Greater MN around voting their values in the election. This work will also be deeply rooted in communities of color in Greater MN. In the summer of 2016 we will be developing the narrative of the voter engagement campaign, creating teams in congregations to lead the work, and developing a congregational program that will engage people of faith in the importance of the political moment and why voting is essential.

This work will likely include:
- Working with the lead Greater MN Organizer to develop and implement a congregational program around voter engagement in 3 churches.
- Work with three congregations to develop civic engagement teams of leaders who will implement a voter engagement plan to reach unlikely voters in their communities.

Over a 10 week period and with mentorship from a senior organizer, a full time intern could work with 3 congregations and their clergy to host congregational workshops around democracy and voter engagement, and build core teams of leaders in these congregations who will lead local voter engagement efforts. The intern will also help develop plans for candidate forums or leadership meetings around the importance of voting. An intern must have access to a car. Preference for an intern to have proficiency in Spanish.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).

7. The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation with Peter Hill '00

The Pine Ridge Reservation (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine_Ridge_Indian_Reservation) is one of the largest reservations in North America. It encompasses 3,500 square miles of rolling prairie, pine hills, and badlands, and is larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined. Many volunteer opportunities exist in the many reservation communities, particularly during the summer. Shannon County, which makes up the majority of reservation land, is the poorest county in the United States, and there are many reservation-based advocacy organizations and non-profits making a positive difference in the communities.

Peter Hill '00 has been living and working on the reservation for 15 years. He founded and administers the **Lakota Immersion Daycare Program** (www.lakotalearners.com). Interns with a diverse set of skills could work on some of their many projects and initiatives. A few examples: in 2015, an SJI intern helped to write grants and do program outreach/publicity. Technology skills and artistic abilities are also needed to help create Lakota online multimedia programs. An eagerness to pitch in and help where needed is the most important quality we seek in an intern. Obviously, Lakota language knowledge is not a pre-requisite, although you will likely pick up a lot while you're here!

Peter also has connections to many other programs on the reservation, and is willing to help connect potential summer volunteers with a variety of different work opportunities. These include:

Earth Tipi (www.earthtipi.org, www.facebook.com/earthipi) - Sustainable housing, natural building, food growing, alternative energy, sustainable housing. Lots of opportunity for hands-on volunteer work! Camping amenities on site.

KILI Radio (www.kiliradio.org, www.facebook.com/pages/KILI-Radio-901-FM/198599727905) - "The Voice of the Lakota Nation". Help keep this important community resource going strong!

Thunder Valley Community Development Corp. (www.thundervalley.org, www.facebook.com/thundervalleycdc) - "Empowering Lakota youth and families to improve the health, culture and environment of our communities, through the healing and strengthening of cultural identity." Thunder Valley is in the process of launching a revolutionary planned community project to help address the lack of quality, affordable housing on the reservation.

The Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School (www.redcloudschool.org/page.aspx?pid=393, www.facebook.com/TheHeritageCenteratRedCloud) - One of the premiere collections of Native American art in the nation. Summer is high time for the Heritage Center, as a result of their renowned Indian Art Show. A 2015 SJI intern worked to enhance their exhibitions and helped to strengthen their digital catalogue.

Lakota Waldorf School (www.lakotawaldorfschool.org, www.facebook.com/lakota.waldorf) - "The Lakota Waldorf School strives to initiate the educational process while maintaining the Lakota language and culture. Our goal is to empower our Lakota children so they will create positive, active futures for themselves and their community." A variety of summer volunteer possibilities.

Sweet Grass Project (www.sprc.org/grantees/oglala-sioux-tribe, www.facebook.com/pages/Sweet-Grass-Project/197344923627712) - The tribe's grant-funded suicide education and prevention program. The Sweet Grass project was created in response to a rash of community suicides - particularly involving youth - during the late 2000s.

Pine Ridge Hospital - (www.ihs.gov/aberdeen/index.cfm?module=ab_ao_hf_prsu) - Those interested in going into the medical field may be able to find internship work at the reservation's only hospital, or in one of the associated community clinics. Behavioral Health, for example, would be a good fit for someone interested in going into psychotherapy or counseling.

If you are interested in applying, please first contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo) for more information about this challenging and meaningful opportunity.

8. TakeAction Minnesota, Twin Cities, with Amanda Otero '09

TakeAction Minnesota works year round to make change that matters to Minnesotans by organizing at the grassroots, building dynamic and effective coalitions, educating voters, endorsing and electing progressive candidates, impacting state and local policy, and winning issue campaigns. Our work is focused on winning tangible victories that improve people's lives and also on building the progressive movement to expand what is politically possible. Currently, issues we're working on include winning universal health care, removing barriers to jobs and democracy for people with criminal records, and working towards quality, sustainable jobs for all.

In the summer of 2016, TakeAction Minnesota's health care program will continue to build the power needed to win universal health care. At a grassroots level, this work focuses on finding and developing the stories and leaders who are central to the fight. Day-to-day work includes outreach on transit, phones, and doors to collect stories and engage activists; developing and sharing stories to shift the public narrative about health care; organizing meetings and house parties with leaders and potential leaders; and leadership development through individual meetings and trainings. And, as 2016 is an important election year, TakeAction's grassroots programs will also be focused on building the teams needed to elect progressive candidates in key districts and doing direct voter turnout and persuasion with them.

The Organizing Intern will work primarily with the Health Care Organizer on these initiatives. In all of our organizing work, we are committed to developing leaders and building capacity. We take the same approach in working with interns; we see it as a chance to help develop the skills and experience of budding organizers who will work side-by-side with us to create social change for years to come. Interns will work full time as part of the organizing team. They will be expected to participate in relevant staff meetings and organizing team meetings, where we assess challenges and opportunities in our work and develop strategies for accomplishing goals. Interns will participate in organizing and skills trainings alongside staff, including trainings both from internal staff and from external trainers who are brought in. And like staff members, interns will have regular individual check-ins with their supervisor.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum (cfureslo).