School Literacy and Culture (Rice University)

Mission:
As one of Rice University’s longest-standing educational outreach programs, School Literacy and Culture promotes effective teaching through professional development initiatives that emphasize reading and writing, culture, child development and research.

School Literacy and Culture

- Brings Rice University’s “Unconventional Wisdom” to early childhood educators through an approach to literacy that promotes creative thinking and problem solving while addressing early literacy skills.
- Creates and sustains teacher leaders through classroom-based mentoring and monthly seminars that bring together teachers from diverse settings including public, private, and charter schools and Head Start centers.
- Promotes excellence in early education by extrapolating current early literacy research into classroom practice.

Activities:
SLC programming ranges from single session workshops for teachers of very young children to year-long mentored residencies with elementary school teachers to arts integration seminars with teachers of middle and high school. Our most widely recognized programs are Classroom Storytelling, the Rice Oral and Written Language Lab (the Rice OWL Lab), and the Early Literacy Leadership Academy (ELLA). We also have programs for parents, administrators, and K – 12 students. More information is available at literacy.rice.edu.

Please note: All SLC Community Bridges interns split their hours between work at the SLC offices on Kirby Drive in the Rice Village and Small Steps Nurturing Center in the Fifth Ward.

Needs/Projects this year:

1. Program intern: This intern will work alongside SLC program directors to facilitate seminars, summits, and other early literacy programming.
   a. Assist in seminars for SLC’s signature Classroom Storytelling program
   b. Conduct library/online research into current topics in the field of early childhood education, summarizing findings, and preparing practical interpretations of research articles for teachers. Sample reports may be found at: http://centerforeducation.rice.edu/slc/LS/30MillionWordGap.html
   c. Serve on a conference committee for SLC’s Early Literacy Summit which brings over 400 area teachers to the Rice campus on January 17th, 2015. This intern will facilitate conference set-up and day-of-event activities.
   d. Distribute classroom supplies to teachers participating in SLC’s innovative Early Literacy Leadership Academy
   e. Serve as a conversational partner with preschool children at Small Steps Nurturing Center in the Fifth Ward
   f. Who should apply? Rice students interested in the education of young children (ages 2 to second grade). Developmental psychology and sociology students have enjoyed this type of position in the past.
   g. Important Note: A successful intern must be available designated Wednesday afternoons into early evening (approximately 2:00 – 6:45 pm) in order to attend Classroom Storytelling seminars on campus. He or she must also be available the evening of Friday, January 16th and all day Saturday, January 17th in order to facilitate the Early Literacy Summit.

2. Statistics intern: This intern will assist School Literacy and Culture in summarizing, evaluating, and communicating results from a variety of pre-and post-test data about teachers and students in our program.
   a. Develop programs/spreadsheets for inputting and tracking of previously collected data
   b. Provide text-based and graphic documents summarizing various data components
c. Establish a system for generating, collecting, and tracking participant evaluation forms, photos, etc.
   from a variety of SLC program areas

d. Create summative reports, analyzing trends and making recommendations for future action

e. Work with Small Steps Nurturing Center in the Fifth Ward as requested

f. Who should apply? Rice students interested in the fields of applied math and statistics or those
   seeking practical research experience in data analysis. The successful intern candidate should be
   self-motivated and enjoy making autonomous decisions.

g. Who should not apply? This would not be an ideal placement for a student who is hoping to work
directly with children in the Fifth Ward.

3. Non-profit intern: This intern will work directly with SLC director Karen Capo to gain a realistic
   perspective of the challenges and rewards of non-profit management.
   a. Utilize one-on-one weekly planning sessions with SLC’s director to gain firsthand experience with
      the day-to-day responsibilities of a non-profit director
   b. Prioritize tasks and work independently on a wide range projects
   c. Attend monthly SLC Advisory Board meetings, recording minutes of each meeting and
      disseminating them to board members as requested
   d. Apply management principles by planning and coordinating monthly meetings of all SLC
      Community Bridges interns with SLC director
   e. Research, compose, and submit a grant proposal to further the work of SLC in the Fifth Ward
   f. Who should apply? Rice students with excellent written and oral communication skills who are
      interested in non-profit work, education, or non-profit management.
   g. Who should not apply? This would not be an ideal placement for a student who is hoping to work
      directly with children.

1. OWL Lab AV intern: This intern will record samples of teacher-child interaction at the Rice Oral and
   Written Language Lab (the OWL Lab) and organize the resulting footage for use in professional
   development sessions at Small Steps Nurturing Center in the Fifth Ward and other Houston-area preschool
   and kindergarten settings.
   a. Videotape lessons and information conversations conducted by teachers at the Rice OWL Lab
   b. Transfer resulting footage into readily accessible formats
   c. Code outstanding footage by the types of teaching strategies utilized
   d. Support documentation and programming at the Rice OWL Lab in other ways as agreed upon with
      SLC associate director of bilingual programming Debbie Paz
   e. Serve as a conversational partner with children at Small Steps Nurturing Center in the Fifth Ward
   f. Who should apply? Highly organized Rice students who enjoy working with technology as well as
      working directly with young children. Students interested in language development would find this
      position particularly rewarding.
   g. Special Notes: This intern must have transportation to and from the Rice OWL Lab at HISD’s
      Gabriela Mistral Center for Early Childhood (6203 Jessamine) and be available for a full three-hour
      block of time one morning a week. Fluency in Spanish is helpful, but not required.

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