School Literacy and Culture Project

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.

Needs/Projects this year:

1. Program intern: This intern will work alongside SLC program directors to facilitate seminars, summits, and other early literacy programming.
   - Assist in seminars for SLC’s signature Classroom Storytelling program
   - 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
• Serve on a conference committee for SLC’s Early Literacy Summit, which brings over 400 area teachers to the Rice campus on January 16th, 2015. This intern will facilitate conference set-up and day-of-event activities.
• Distribute classroom supplies to teachers participating in SLC’s innovative Early Literacy Leadership Academy
• Serve as a conversational partner with preschool children at the Rice Oral and Written Language Laboratory (the Rice OWL lab) at Houston ISD’s Gabriela Mistral Center for Early Childhood in the Gulfton community.

**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.

**Important Note:** A successful intern must be available the evening of Friday, January 15th and all day Saturday, January 16th in order to facilitate the Early Literacy Summit. This intern must have transportation to and from the Rice OWL Lab (6203 Jessamine) or be willing to utilize Houston METRO. This intern must also be available for a full three-hour block of time one morning a week. Fluency is Spanish is helpful, but not required.

2. **Statistics intern:**

• Develop programs/spreadsheets for inputting and tracking of previously collected data
• Provide text-based and graphic documents summarizing various data components
• Establish a system for generating, collecting, and tracking participant evaluation forms, photos, etc. from a variety of SLC program areas
• Create summative reports, analyzing trends and making recommendations for future action
• Work with Small Steps Nurturing Center in the Fifth Ward as requested

**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.

**Who should not apply?** This would not be an ideal placement for a student who is hoping to work directly 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.*

• 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
• Prioritize tasks and work independently on a wide range projects
• Attend monthly SLC Advisory Board meetings, recording minutes of each meeting and disseminating them to board members as requested
• Apply management principles by planning and coordinating meetings of all SLC Community Bridges interns with SLC director
• Research, compose, and submit a grant proposal to further the work of SLC in the Fifth Ward
• **Who should apply?** Rice students with excellent written and oral communication skills who are interested in non-profit work, education, or non-profit management.
• **Who should not apply?** This would not be an ideal placement for a student who is hoping to work directly with children.

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**Contact Information:**  
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To speak with a previous SLC Community Bridges intern, please contact D’Anna Young at day3@rice.edu or Kiara Aguirre at kaa3@rice.edu.