Service-Learning at Saint Joseph’s University

Placement Information

Hopeworks ‘N Camden

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Description of Agency/Activities: Hopeworks ‘N Camden empowers youth to identify and develop their D.R.E.A.M.S. (Dynamic Realizable Efforts to Attain and Maintain Success) and own their futures. We do this through technical training in web site design and geographic information systems (GIS) which prepares our trainees for a job with us in either of those two areas. Additionally, we support our youth with one-on-one literacy and numeracy instruction and with a formation program that builds accountability and identifies strengths through planning and visioning. Youth are between the ages of 13 and 23, come from North Camden and the surrounding neighborhoods, and are predominately Black or Latino/a. We have youth who are in high school and in college. If a youth has dropped out of high school, we are able to enroll them in college so that they can work towards their high school diploma as well as their associate’s degree in a dual-degree program.

Student Role in Agency: To provide our trainees with as much reading, writing and mathematics instruction as possible, we utilize volunteers. Students would be working in a one-on-one setting with trainees completing assignments in the three focus areas as directed by the literacy director. The ideal candidate will be patient and consistent. Prior experience teaching or tutoring would be great; however, the most important requirement is a desire to help another person achieve their academic goals. If students are working with our college trainees, they would need to be sensitive to the closeness in age and be genuine in their approach. Hopeworks is also hopeful that volunteers will be able to give students a tour of Saint Joseph’s University and give an impression of their college experience.

Unique Features of Agency: Hopeworks ‘N Camden is exceptional in that it has training, jobs, academic support and personal growth integrated into one comprehensive set of opportunities. In the heart of Camden, students would be exposed to the everyday lives of these trainees and see the impact of a positive youth development program, as it cares for and cultivates these young people.

Orientation & Requirements:
SJU and Hopeworks policies require 4 clearances to volunteer at this placement: Criminal Background, Child Abuse History, FBI Fingerprinting and Minors on Campus Training Video. More information on how to complete these clearances is available at www.sju.edu/servicelearningstudents and at Placement Awareness Training.