NICE Internship Program Description

NICE Overview
The Northwest Institute for Community Enrichment builds collaboration between diverse constituencies in order to create, define, and maintain community-based and entrepreneurial initiatives which enrich our communities. The NICE’s five core values are: Community, Justice, Sustainability, Harmony, and Transformative Potential.

Internship Description
The Northwest Institute for Community Enrichment’s (NICE) Internship Program intends to give social changemakers in the NW region an opportunity to dedicate their energies toward solutions-based actions. Working with the NICE’s main organizers and partners, NICE interns gain detailed skills in organizing, leadership, communication, non-profit management, etc.

The NICE Internship Program gives interns the opportunity to engage with the organization’s main branches, while also striving to accommodate potential interns’ specific focuses. Prospective interns can apply to join any of the branches listed below, or can propose an alternate internship position (e.g. graphic designer) after consultation with one of the NICE’s main organizers.

NICE Branches

Catalyst Communities
Catalyst Communities is a branch of the NICE which builds community around issues of environmental, economic, and social justice. Catalyst Community members support teams that launch throughout the year, using Solutionary organizing to respond to the issues in their neighborhoods and communities. The Catalyst Communities Branch organizes and facilitates the process by recruiting teams, facilitating convergences and trainings, and ensuring teams feel prepared to launch their local teams and projects for the summer season.

NICE Regional Team
The NICE Regional Team is a branch of the NICE which coordinates the main development of the NICE as an organization through: marketing/outreaching for the NICE’s main programs, generating resources, collaborating with community partners, and designing new initiatives. The NICE Regional Team also serves as the connecting hub between all the regional Catalyst Communities.

Learning Community
The Learning Community is a branch of the NICE which introduce Catalyst Communities to the Learning Community model (i.e. regional network that continually evaluates and improves on its current organizing practices) and assists communities in assessing their work (e.g. through developing project hypotheses specific to their goals, quantifying metrics, etc.). The Learning Community identifies other applicable social change/community organizing practices that the NICE can adopt throughout its programs.
Intern Qualifications

- Some experience with community development work in the field involving organizing, partnership-building, and entrepreneurial efforts.
- Ability to operate as an independent worker.
- Effective communicator and team player. Readiness to make cold calls/emails and meet with new people in one-on-ones.
- Experience with a broad range of local solutions (food, energy, buildings, transit, industry) and community development models.
- Experience working remotely (phone and email) and building work relationships without being physically present.

Commitment

The position will require 4-6 hours per week. Internship term and start date are flexible, though work needs to begin by the end of April 2012. This is an unpaid position, however we will work with applicants on getting credit through their respective institutions. Position operates remotely, thus prospective applicants can work anywhere in the Northwest.

Application Deadline and Specifics

The application deadline is Friday, April 13th, 2012. Please submit a resume and responses to the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in this position?
2. What specific skills or expertise would you bring to the position?
3. Which branch are you applying to?
4. When would you be interested in starting? How long would you be interested in being an intern?

Contact information

To submit your application or to ask questions, contact Drew Serres, Branches Coordinator, at djserez@gmail.com. Also, check out our evolving website at http://thenice.org/