Community Engaged Griffins

Description

This new program provides students an opportunity to hold a “higher-level” volunteer position with a local non-profit. A “higher-level” position is defined as a volunteer position that requires critical thinking and work that is more than performing repetitive tasks. Students will be enrolled as Westminster employees to provide financial compensation for their work with the non-profit. The students will commit to a designated number of hours (between 6-10 hours/week) that must be completed within an agreed upon time frame. Students may choose between a minimum of 4 months of service and a maximum of 9 months of service. All service must be completed by mid-June at the latest.

Purpose

This program fosters the opportunity for students to become involved in the community at a deeper level of commitment. The financial assistance offers students the financial support to become more involved in the community and to create and/or complete a placement that fulfills meaningful service and learning. Students will be able to utilize multiple college-wide learning goals including but not limited to ethical awareness, global consciousness, leadership, teamwork, and communication.

Commitment & Program Details

Students must fill out the required application to be considered for the program. The student will complete an evaluation of themselves during their application process. Students may apply to the program anytime during the school year but must complete a minimum of 4 months of service at a minimum of 6 hours/week by mid-end of June. The student will be placed on pay roll at a rate of $8.00/hour. The student must abide to the maximum of 20 hours per week between all campus positions. Students will be required to submit a time card to the Human Resources department every two weeks.

In addition, students must keep a hard copy record of the hours performed with the non-profit. The student will meet monthly with the coordinator(s) of the program. At each meeting, the student will
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turn in a time sheet that shows all their hours with the organization; this will prove as recognition that the student is working with the non-profit organization on a regular basis. Following completion of the student’s required time commitment the student will turn in a reflection of their service based on three of the college wide learning goals. The student will fill out a post-evaluation following completion of the program.

In addition, the students must complete a change project sometime during their months of service. The change project is simply a project that addresses a need of the non-profit (examples include: creating posters, organizing volunteers, implanting a new project, creating an information sheet to advertise for volunteers). Budget money will be granted up to $300 to help with the project if needed.

The program coordinator(s) reserve the right to schedule additional meetings with any student involved at the program for any reason. Additional meetings will typically be scheduled whenever a student’s commitment at the non-profit organization appears to be questionable. When the student signs their application, it will act as a contract stating that the student will frequently check their email and respond in a timely manner to the program coordinator(s).

Restriction

- This program can NOT be completed as part of a requirement for a class or club/organization.
- This program can NOT be completed as an internship for class credit.
- The hours must be in addition to any other funded involvement with the non-profit (such as Take Action or employment with the non-profit).