

UM Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership: Building a local food system SUMMER, UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP AVAILABLE

JOB TITLE:

Local Foods Feature Writing, Photojournalism, and Outreach Intern - Partners Internship Program

ORGANIZATION: Renewing the Countryside (RTC)

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION:

Through creative, innovative programs, RTC works to help build sustainable, rural communities that balance economic, environmental and social needs. We began by telling stories of farmers, artists, entrepreneurs, activists and others who are renewing the countryside. These stories are showcased in books, on the radio, and on our website. In addition to storytelling, we build support for sustainable endeavors through events (like Healthy Local Foods at the EcoExperience), networking, and a sustainable travel program called Green Routes. (More information can be found at www.renewingthecountryside.org and greenroutes.org)

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

We are seeking a student intern to develop and roll out our "Community of a Plate" initiative across the state. The intern will visit communities in Greater Minnesota, and through writing and photography, will document a plate of "local food"-following it back to the area's farms and foodmakers. Additionally, the intern will oversee a traveling "Community of a Plate" exhibit and help organize community dialogues. While in the communities, the intern will be hosted by friends of RTC. This is a fantastic opportunity for a motivated, creative person with a love of writing and photography.

SALARY: 9.81/ hr - TYPE: Intern / 40 hours - DEADLINE: 4/13/09

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Intern will travel to 4 to 5 communities over the summer and spend 3 to 7 days in each community.
- In each community, the intern will be paired with a community liaison who will help them identify a local "Community of a Plate" story.
- The intern will research the local "community of a plate" stories, traveling to farms, foodmaking businesses, and other parts of the food system to conduct interviews and take photographs.
- The intern will write a feature piece, including photos, for each community.
- The intern will work with the community liaison to identify a venue for the Community of a Plate exhibit and will help organize and hang the exhibit.
- The intern will work with each community liaison to develop and organize a community dialogue or event focused on local foods.
- The intern will develop a blog for the project and track his or her journey over the summer.

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Required.

- skilled writer and photographer

- outgoing, professional personality and excellent communication skills-likes to meet and talk with people, interview people, engage in conversation
- works well in a creative, fast-paced environment
- valid driver's license and access to a dependable car (travel expenses will be covered)

Preferred:

- experience with photojournalism and community organizing
- experience framing and exhibiting artwork
- knowledge of sustainability, local food systems, rural communities and environmental issues
- have experience traveling independently

Intern must attend a pre-internship seminar on June 5th and a post-internship seminar on August 21.

PIP interns must currently be an undergraduate enrolled in a college or university in Minnesota, North Dakota or Wisconsin and/or be an undergraduate currently enrolled in any HECUA member campus (go to www.hecua.org to view members). Interns must be returning to school in the fall of 2009 to continue undergraduate studies and must have no previous employment experience with the sponsoring organization. Interns must not be a relative of any paid staff or board member of the sponsoring organization and must not have participated in the Partners Internship Program in a previous year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Partners Internship Program is funded by the Otto Bremer Foundation and provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to gain work experience in the nonprofit sector. The internships are 400 hours over the summer of 2009, and work out to about 40 hours a week for ten weeks. For more information about the program visit www.hecua.org/pip.php

HOW TO APPLY:

Email a cover letter, resume, two writing samples, and three photographs that you have taken (jpegs) April 13 to:

Margaret Schnieders
Renewing the Countryside
margaret@rtcinfo.org

Questions may be emailed, or call Margaret at 612-871-1541