Civil Rights Movement and Labor History Initiative

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Facilitator-Instructor for After School Program: Focus on U.S. History

Teaching for Change seeks to hire a part-time facilitator-instructor for the McComb Legacies Project in McComb, Mississippi. McComb Legacies is a youth leadership program that provides middle and high school youth with the opportunity to learn about, document, and share their local civil rights movement and labor history. The youth also use the lessons learned from history to examine and take action to improve their world today.

The facilitator-instructor will be responsible for a weeklong summer institute, working with the youth once or twice a week during the school year, and engaging key partners. The theme for the 2013-14 school-year will be selected by the students from one of the major Civil Rights Movement anniversaries.

This is a rewarding and historic opportunity in youth leadership and history education. The facilitator will work with the youth on a yearlong local history project, going beyond the textbook narratives. The project involves research, documentation, oral histories, and finally determining ways to share what they have learned. In 2011 and 2012, students created mini-documentary films for local and national viewers. The films were entered in the National History Day competition and won first prize at the state level. Students also share what they have learned through local history tours, websites, and mini-conferences. Not surprisingly, they take what they have learned about organizing for equity and applying it to contemporary issues in voter registration, education, and community representation of history.

This work is based in McComb, Mississippi, so the person must be available for the week-long institute in the summer, twice weekly during the school year, and occasionally on other days for student seminars, presentations, and competitions.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support a group of students who seek to understand, document, and share their town’s rich history beyond the textbook. There is a powerful network of activists and historians who are available to provide support and feedback to the youth. The work is implemented in collaboration with the McComb School District and a school-community advisory group.

Requirements:

- Experience teaching K-12 for at least three years with the following characteristics:
  - Beyond the textbook: No textbook or only occasional use of textbook.
  - Inquiry-based classroom with critical pedagogy.
  - Cooperative, hands-on learning.
  - History from the bottom-up or people’s history.
  - Multiple ways to demonstrate learning with meaningful, relevant projects.
- Knowledge of 20th century U.S. history with a focus on labor and civil rights movements.
- Digital media experience with website design and/or film making. If the candidate does not have digital media experience, she or he must be fully computer savvy and willing to attend a training institute.
- Ability to help student not only learn history, but figure out how to share and edit the story as they develop a storyboard for a mini-documentary on the local history topic of the year. This includes helping them draw on existing oral history interviews, primary documents, and other resources to tell that story.
- Ability to work collaboratively with a team and engage partners. The team involves youth, school district staff, community members, civil rights movement veterans, and academic and community historians – with members both local and national.
- Youth in the project outlined the following qualities they are looking for, in addition to the ones outlined in the rest of this announcement. Someone who:
  - Loves teaching and working with youth
  - Provides order and structure while providing space for creativity
  - Has a positive attitude and good personality
  - Respects the prior knowledge that youth bring to the table and helps participants “elevate to the next level.”
- Ability to support youth leadership and activism, ensuring students develop the skills to:
  - Make strong presentations of their work with diverse audiences,
  - Develop a critical analysis of contemporary issues and identify where they can have an impact,
  - Collaboratively strategize to address concerns,
  - Resolve internal conflicts,
  - Create, nurture, and sustain an equitable leadership structure,
  - Reach out to peers and the next cohort of participants,
  - Examine issues of race, gender, and class internally and externally.
- Available to work in McComb, Mississippi for the week of July 22, 2013, twice a week during the school year, and other dates as needed.
- Good writing skills for reports and correspondence with partners.

The position is part-time, paid at an hourly rate commensurate with compensation for instructors and youth development staff in the area.

Interested candidates are asked to send a resume and thoughtful cover letter expressing why they are interested in this role and the experience they bring to the table. Top candidates will be interviewed by youth in the project, in coordination with the school district, and be asked to demonstrate facilitation style and skills.

Send all materials, ASAP, to: Allyson Criner Brown, Associate Director at employment@teachingforchange.org Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

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