Unique Paid Internship Opportunity to Work with NASA Data and Develop Educational Programs

Nurture Nature Center, Lehigh University, Morgan State University, and Maryland Science Center are looking for motivated students to help with a new NASA funded project called, “6 Degrees of Influence: Understanding the Interconnectedness of Earth Systems.”

As suggested by its name, the project will use personal relevance to educate and generate interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) related topics by teaching about interconnectedness and how global issues can be tied to local experiences. The goal is to use NASA datasets, experts, and analysis tools to develop an educational program on the NOAA Science on a Sphere®, a large globe that displays earth and space science images, for middle school students and teachers. The aim is to stimulate interest in students pursuing STEAM experiences and careers.

Undergraduate Internship Program

Where: Hosted by Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA in collaboration with Nurture Nature Center, Easton, PA.
When: June–August 2017 (8 weeks total)
What: We are looking for 2 undergraduates (from any related major) to spend the summer at Lehigh and work with us to research and develop the ‘6 degrees of influence’ programs. Educational and networking activities are planned and students can expect to gain valuable research and networking skills, as well as be able to interact with NASA experts for data, content, and mentorship. At the conclusion of the internship, students will have the chance to continue working on the project to help plan/deliver the programs to middle school science students in the fall of 2017 at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore, MD.

Students will receive a $5,000 stipend for the summer and be provided with a laptop to use during the internship. If this summer doesn’t work for you, please keep us in mind for next summer (June–August 2018).

Interested applicants should fill out an application at https://goo.gl/forms/tTf3lZyjln9Q50Vn2 and have transcripts (unofficial is sufficient) and two letters of recommendations emailed to Dr. Kathryn Semmens ksemmens@nurturenature.org by February 27, 2017. Selections will be made by the end of March and applicants notified by email.

Applicants from Lehigh should contact Dr. Joan Ramage jmr204@lehigh.edu with questions.

Applicants from Morgan State should contact Dr. Christine Hohmann at christine.hohmann@morgan.edu with questions.

About the “6 Degrees of Influence” Project

To address the substantiated educational challenge of personally connecting students to earth sciences, we offer a solution with the potential for significant impact. We propose developing relevancy through a ‘6 Degrees of Influence’ approach to cultivate urgency and interest in STEAM learning about global issues as presented through NASA data. Using a carefully scripted Science on a Sphere program that develops systems thinking and connections between global and local issues, combined with arts–based approaches to help participants visualize and physically diagram their connections to global issues we propose to tie the impacts from global issues to local students and teachers.

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