Service Opportunities

Thank you for your interest in working with the College of Education at Temple University to provide our students with unique opportunities to support our community. Please complete this form to share your proposed project.

Tom Szczesny  
tszcz@gse.upenn.edu  
Contact Person  
Preferred E-mail

The LINC: Learning in New Contexts / School District of Philadelphia  
Company/Institution

122 W. Erie Avenue  
Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Philadelphia  
PA  
19140

City  
State  
Zip Code

Brief Organizational Background

The LINC is non-selective School District of Philadelphia (SDP) managed high school opening in the fall of 2014 with 115 freshmen. The school’s mission is to provide a personalized, competency-based learning environment open to all students where 100% of students graduate within 3-5 years ready to enter a four-year college without the need for remediation. Dr. Saliyah Cruz designed the school in collaboration with SDP’s Office of New School Models and will assume the role of principal.

The LINC’s design was informed by listening sessions with students and stakeholders across Philadelphia and research from the Carnegie Foundation on successful school models. The result is a school that will emphasize 21st century skills and global competencies. It will tailor its curriculum to the pace, needs, and interests of each student through the deployment of a competency framework in all subjects. In addition, students will be encouraged to act as positive leaders of change in their communities as they explore their identity, examine issues in their community, and devise solutions to address those issues.

Range of Services (i.e. tutoring, discrete workshops, research, etc)

The LINC will serve 115 freshmen during the 2014-2015 academic year. It will grow each year until reaching capacity at 450 students. It will offer students a curriculum that meets Pennsylvania state standards and graduation requirements. It will also prepare students for entry into a post-secondary institution by offering counseling and other services.

Population Served (i.e. demographics, age range, educational level, cultural background, etc.). Please include other relevant information.

All LINC students will be high school freshmen during the 2014-2015 academic year. As a non-selective (“neighborhood”) high school there were not any admission criteria for entering students. An overwhelming expression of interest necessitated a blind lottery weighted toward the communities immediately surrounding the school. 50% of students will come from the ten zip codes surrounding the 19140 area while the other 50% of the students will be drawn from the rest of Philadelphia.
**Service Opportunities**

**-- continued --**

**Brief Description of Proposed Activity**

| Temple student interns would work closely with The LINC’s counselor, Daima Mbele, to provide counseling services to its 115 students. Ms. Mbele would work with the student intern to identify roles and responsibilities they could fulfill in the counseling department. These might include working directly with students and parents/guardians, participating in check-ins that will occur advisory periods, and maintaining compliance. |

**Main Expectations of student interns (i.e. time commitment, frequency, duration, etc.) Please specify type of students required (undergraduate, graduate, & specific educational discipline if necessary).**

| Undergraduate or graduate students would be welcome. Student interns with an interest or background in counseling, social work, or psychology would be required. Student interns would commit to working at The LINC at least once a week for an extended period of time (3-4+ hours) on a day that is negotiable. The commitment would require that the student intern is present during normal school hours from 9 am – 4 pm. |

**Benefit to Students**

| Temple student interns would have the opportunity to work directly with students in the Philadelphia School District. Consequently, this would offer them the chance to learn about Philadelphia’s support services – both within SDP and through city government – and the ways in which they interface. They would also receive direct support in their work from a veteran counselor. |

**Benefit to Organization**

| The LINC would benefit from the Temple student intern because it would afford the school’s counselor, Ms. Mbele, additional support in her work. With 115 students in need of services, the school could expand its capacity to offer support and guidance for its entire student population. When students have access to such individualized attention, it aids their academic and social growth. |

**Service Location**

| All service opportunities would occur at The LINC, 122 W. Erie Avenue. |

**Materials/resources to student interns (i.e. curricula, library, IT, & other community resources)**

| Temple student interns would work closely with Ms. Mbele to complete their work. As such, Ms. Mbele would provide the necessary support, guidance, and explanations to the interns as they identified needs when approaching their responsibilities. |

Please send your completed form to Attn. Patricia Lehrman, Special Assistant to the Dean for Strategic Partnerships and Community Affairs, via e-mail: patience@temple.edu or mail to: 266 Ritter Hall, 1301 Cecil B. Moore Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19122. We look forward to working with you!