Service Opportunities

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Brief Organizational Background
The National Archives at Philadelphia is one the 17 facilities of the National Archives and Records Administration, headquartered in Washington DC. The National Archives preserves, protects and makes accessible the records of the federal government. Our National Education Program connects students, teachers and the general public with the many stories revealed in our extensive primary documents. (See archives.gov)

Range of Services (i.e. tutoring, discrete projects, workshops, research, etc)
In Philadelphia the National Archives Education Program is very focused on outreach and collaboration to serve the educational needs of our community. The Education Specialist manages or co-manages several large-scale programs:

1) National History Day Philadelphia, which serves more than 1000 middle and high school students a year as part of the National History Day program, winner of a prestigious 2011 National Humanities Medal for excellence.

2) The Cultural Fieldwork Initiative, a partnership with Temple College of Education Social Studies faculty and more than 30 regional cultural institutions. This award-winning collaboration is the country's only educational fieldwork program based in archives, museums and libraries.

3) My Home, My History project: This ongoing partnership with Esperanza Academy Charter High School enhances the curriculum in the school's Latino/African American Perspectives class. Freshmen learn how to access, interpret and present the history of their neighborhood and families.

The National Archives in Philadelphia also conducts free primary-source-based workshops for students throughout the region, historical research projects, and teacher professional-development programs.
Population served: (i.e. demographics, age range, educational level, cultural background, etc.). Please include other relevant information.

For this particular opportunity, the population is a charter school in North Philadelphia, in a very under-resourced area of the city. The school is Esperanza Academy Charter School, whose students are 93% Latino and 7% African American. The Latino students come from very different areas of the Spanish-speaking world - from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic (the two largest groups) to Ecuador and Guatemala. The Esperanza students in this project are 9th-graders.

Brief Description of Proposed Activity

This specific service opportunity involves providing classroom support at Esperanza during the 2016 "My Home, My History" project. This family and neighborhood history project kicks-off in April and continues through early June, but the Esperanza teachers welcome Temple student support starting in January after winter break. This early interaction would enable the Temple student(s) to get to know and begin mentoring the students before the main project begins in the spring.

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).

This opportunity will involve mentoring 9th grade students in the Latino/African American Perspectives class with a variety of academic and project skills. It will also involve supporting the teachers in the planning and implementation of the "My Home, My History" project.

This opportunity is suitable for either undergraduate or graduate students. The ability to speak Spanish is a plus, but not a necessity.

Students should be familiar with the process of primary document research and have experience in historical research, but do not need to be experts in either. Community partners - including the National Archives at Philadelphia, the National Museum of American Jewish History, the African American Museum in Philadelphia and the African American Genealogy Group - will all be doing workshops and/or mentoring sessions in their area of expertise.

Benefit to Students

This is an outstanding opportunity for a Temple education student who is passionate about helping students in under-resourced areas learn important critical thinking, presentation and life skills. This is a challenging project for 9th graders (many students throughout the country have no exposure to primary source research until college) but we help the students understand that they can rise to the challenge and exceed their initial expectations.

In addition to the classroom experience and working directly with the students and teachers, Temple students will also be working with cultural institutions throughout the city. This will help them be more aware of and understand the role that cultural institutions like museums and archives provide in education, as well as the essential role that
Partnerships between formal and informal educational institutions play in improving educational outcomes for all of our students.

**Benefit to Organization**

The "My Home, My History" ("Mi Hogar, Mi Historia") project is an outstanding educational opportunity for the Esperanza students. It also is an accompanying extra workload for the Esperanza teachers. As we enter year four of this outstanding project, the partners would like to provide more support to the teachers in the classroom. This will be a win for the teachers and students, as well as all the partners involved.

**Service Location**

Esperanza Academy Charter High School  
301 W Hunting Park Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19140

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

Classroom resources and support from the teachers; additional support as needed from the cultural partners.

**Additional comments/information**

There are two social studies teachers involved in the project this year, and more than 200 students.

The main teacher's name and contact information is Zachary Steele:  
zsteele@neacademy.net