Aquaponics Researcher

Position Title
Aquaponics Researcher

General Summary
The Office for Sustainability is looking for an excited, passionate student to join our Aquaponics team for the summer of 2018 and into the fall. We are currently expanding our system in size and production and are looking for students who are interested in sustainable food production, system automation, engineering, microbiology, chemistry, and other related fields to assist. You will be researching Aquaponics techniques around the world, developing ideas and hypothesis, testing them, and reporting on your findings to the WMU community and others in the industry. You will be working with a small team of 2-3 peers as we look at real world problems and try to craft solutions that meet the needs of the environment, local community, and aquaponic growers. This is an opportunity to have hands on, real world engagement with a sustainable model for food production. All majors may apply.

Major Duties

• Maintain current system (food, water, plants, plumbing, water chemistry, etc.)
• Monitor, record, and communicate measurements of system components
• Research and design system expansion
• Create presentations for office and other stakeholders
• Write semester reports for project
• Examine real world applications

Minimum Qualifications

• Great communication skills
• Passion for sustainability and related concepts
• Basic computer level skills (Microsoft Office 2010-word, excel, etc.)
• Ability to work on a team

Desired Majors

• **Engineering**: Any major in engineering department, as this project requires problem solving of complex inter-related systems.
• **Hard Sciences**: Biology, chemistry, physics majors are desired as this project deals with complex systems such as marine biology, plant biology, microbiology, aquatic chemistry, mechanical systems, electricity, automation, and more. This requires systems thinking and critical thinking.
• **Other Majors**: We encourage you to apply if you have a passion for sustainable food systems and want to learn more about sustainable indoor growing.

Note: The application process may require a series of interviews and relevant writing samples.

Hours and Compensation
Expected commitment is 8-12 hours per week starting at $9.45 per hour.

Required Applicant Documents
Complete the application (including OfS writing samples)
http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u159/2014/OfS%20Employment%20Application%20%20%20%29_0.pdf

To Apply
Please submit application materials to wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu or send hard copies to 1903 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5286.
Note: This description indicates the general nature and level of work performed by employees in the above job. It is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required of employees assigned to the job.