Land Steward Volunteer Student Coordinator

Position Title
Land Steward Volunteer Student Coordinator

General Summary
The Office for Sustainability (OfS) at Western Michigan University (WMU) is seeking a Land Steward Volunteer Student Coordinator. This person will work in coordination with a team of WMU students and staff to maintain and improve the Gibbs House Permaculture Research and Demonstration Site (GHPRDS). The GHPRDS is nearly two acres and features a perennial fruit, nut and berry orchard, annual organic vegetable gardens, 2 hoophouses, hugelkultur beds, native plantings, vermicomposting, mushroom cultivation, a seasonal produce stand, and more. This team member should expect to experience a supportive research and education space for developing, testing, and learning about sustainable land management practices, food production, and ecological living.

Major Duties
- Prepare and deliver educational opportunities while providing oversight and mentorship for student farm assistants and volunteers
- Assist the Production Coordinator develop and maintain work plan for other student workers and oversee the volunteer schedule
- Work with community partners on fresh food distribution (i.e. Invisible Need, PFC Market)
- Work closely with the Communication Team to publish ongoing social media and website updates regarding development of the site and volunteer information
- Responsible for the production of crops, including the planting, weeding, cultivation, irrigation, and harvesting produce
- Attend and contribute to weekly team meetings and report on progress with projects
- Assist with special projects including fencing, irrigation, carpentry, and other projects
- Seasonal research and planning efforts
- Work on special projects as determined by the assigned Production Manager
- Submit semester project brief and deliver end of semester presentation to peers and co-workers at the OfS

Position Requirements
- Undergraduate or graduate student currently enrolled at WMU in good academic standing
- Desire to work on farm and garden related projects
- Ability to lead teams, work independently, and be a part of a diverse team
- Self-starter and self-directed
- Ability to work outside in extreme hot or cold conditions
- Ability to lift heavy objects 50lbs or more

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.
Desired Qualifications

- Personal commitment to sustainability
- Applied organic vegetable gardening knowledge
- Possess experience or knowledge of garden management
- Experience or knowledge of applying permaculture principles
- Detail oriented, creative, and open minded
- Leadership experience or knowledge

Hours and Compensation

Expected commitment is 12-14 hours per week starting at $9.45 per hour. Pay will bump to $10.65 per hour once staff member supervises student employees and volunteers.

Tentative Start Date:
Mid-March 2019

To Apply
1. Complete the application found at http://www.wmich.edu/sustainability/opportunities/jobs
2. Email applications to wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu or send hard copies to 1903 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5286.
3. All applications, both online or in print, are due Friday, February 15 by 5:00 p.m.

For more information visit the Gibbs website:
www.wmich.edu/sustainability/projects/gibbs

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Western Michigan University prohibits discrimination or harassment which violates the law or which constitutes inappropriate or unprofessional limitation of employment opportunity, University facility access, or participation in University activities, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, protected veteran status, height, weight, or marital status. (Revised April 2006)

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