

RRLC Paid Internship Request

Pioneer Library System

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DIGITAL LITERACY
INTERNSHIP

Detailed description of the project or service for which you need an intern

Providing digital literacy instruction is a critical role for public libraries, especially those in rural communities, but many of Pioneer's member libraries have trouble dedicating the time and expertise required to teach patrons to use technology. An internship program would make a dedicated technology expert available to patrons by appointment at libraries throughout the system. Interns could also deliver hands-on technology classes at libraries and provide digital literacy instruction to library staff. An intern could also provide administrative support for the Pioneer Library System's Digital Inclusion Coalition, which will be launched in September.

WE ARE
LOOKING
FOR A

How will the project help your organization fulfill its mission? How will the project impact the larger RRLC community?

The Pioneer Library System's mission is "to improve and expand library service in Livingston, Ontario, Wayne and Wyoming counties through leadership, education, advocacy and enhanced resource sharing." The digital literacy internship program identifies a need at our member libraries for and seeks to use the system's capacity to fill that need. In the past, this capacity-building work has proven to be a successful way for the Pioneer Library System to provide leadership on critical services like strategic planning, early literacy, and STEM instruction. By taking on the administrative responsibilities of designing a digital literacy curriculum and supervising qualified interns to deliver the curriculum, Pioneer Library System will improve and expand the technology services of our member libraries.

At the Pioneer Library System, we have a vision that anyone in the community can visit any public library at any time and get help using technology. Although many of our member libraries are taking innovative approaches to provide technology instruction to their communities, we know that our vision is not a current reality. We hope that by helping Pioneer libraries deliver on their promise to bridge the digital divide, we can improve the standing of all libraries in important funding and policy discussions about internet connectivity and adoption in New York.

If the program is successful, we will be very happy to share the results with the RRLC community and help any other library or library system replicate the program.

Any special skills needed by the intern?

Interns should have a familiarity with popular consumer devices and applications. Interns should have the ability to teach classes and deliver one-on-one instruction. Successful interns will enjoy problem-solving and will be comfortable with the spontaneity often required to meet the digital literacy needs of a diverse public.



Time frame for the project and number of internship hours needed

The timing of the program can be flexible. There is a great need for digital literacy instruction, so we can potentially accommodate several interns at once or over a long period of time.

Are you willing to fulfill oversight and reporting requirements that may be required by the college where the intern is enrolled, or such requirements from RRLC?

Yes

Does your organization or parent institution have any requirements or restrictions on the use of interns?

No

How will your project help the intern in advancing their studies or choosing a career path?

Delivering digital literacy instruction is a great introduction to public service. As a society, we are leaving the unconnected behind, and this is an opportunity to see firsthand the effects of the digital divide on our communities. It's also an opportunity to be part the solution to this critical issue.

MLS students will learn how to develop and deliver a technology curriculum in a library setting. They will learn the opportunities and challenges of small and rural public libraries.

Undergraduate students will learn about the ways diverse populations experience technology. They will learn about the opportunities and challenges of community outreach in a rural setting. If they are considering a career in librarianship, this is an ideal way for interns to immerse themselves in a core service of public libraries.



WRITE JOB DESCRIPTION
BASED ON THIS APPLICATION