

2010 ENGAGE Internship Program

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2010 ENGAGE Internship Program

INTRODUCTION

ENGAGE INTERNSHIPS are designed to connect you to other ENGAGE members around the country who are doing exciting local base-building work. You will gain valuable hands-on grassroots organizing experience, along with mentoring and training, and your work over the summer will help build the capacity of the ENGAGE base hosting you.

We recognize the importance of learning-by-doing and education as a means for social change. In the US we are working to build experiential education opportunities similar to those we participated in abroad, with the goal of nurturing new generations of educator-organizers and movement allies. Our community partnerships and national campaigns center around standing in solidarity with peoples' struggles and also around working together to build long-term capacity for the community and its organizers. Much of our organizing incorporates intercultural and international exchange.

Our internship program is part of our commitment to supporting the base-building work of ENGAGE members in the US, while also creating network-wide projects that tie these bases together.

The main goals of our internship program are:

To create more opportunities for **mentoring and training in grassroots organizing** for students

To support community organizations in **building their power and capacity**

To foster exchange between ENGAGE bases, **encouraging movement building** across issues and sectors of society

For more resources and discussion on movement building and base-building, check out the work of these great organizations:

THE CATALYST PROJECT
www.collectiveliberation.org

SOUL
www.schoolofunityandliberation.org

**HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION CENTER**
www.highlandercenter.org

“...base-building means building a social base of support that helps an organization accomplish its goals. A classic base-building model involves identifying a key constituency, bringing people from the constituency into a base that identifies with the organization's goals, and then facilitating the base's participation, supporting members to invest themselves and step into leadership roles that help the organization grow and accomplish goals.”

- From the War Resister's League:
<http://www.warresisters.org/node/407>

INTERNSHIP LOCATIONS

All of our internship opportunities, besides interning at the ENGAGE network office in Washington DC, are with ENGAGE bases:

ENGAGE BASES are hubs for developing place-based and community-based education for action. Our bases are the microcosms of our network; the specific places where our members are rooted in grassroots organizing, and where experiential education and community-driven action go hand-in-hand. Bases are inherently multi-issue and are committed to a collective learning process involving diverse community members. ENGAGE bases are working to build meaningful relationships with people directly affected by issues they are organizing around, and foster links between marginalized communities, educational institutions, and progressive allies.

Groups that make the decision to affiliate with ENGAGE as a base do so for the sake of strategy. ENGAGE, as a national and international network, provides a mechanism to collaborate with other bases and integrate into larger movements. When used with deliberate intentions, this mechanism can help create sustainable and innovative ally and solidarity work.

Building a coordinated network of ENGAGE bases is still a work in progress, a process that started at our Summer 2009 Convergence. Refer to the following pages for more detailed descriptions of our current bases and internship opportunities!

Contact Information

Kentucky

ESCR-US and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Eastern KY (page 6)

Contact: Ilana Garcia-Grossman, ilanagg@gmail.com

Louisiana

Our School at Blair Grocery, New Orleans (pages 7-8)

Contact: David Ferris, david@osbgnola.org

New York

Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, New York City (page 9)

Contact: Amanda Altman, amanda.altman@gmail.com

South Carolina

Spartanburg Educators for Empowered Communities (SEEC), Spartanburg (pages 10-11)

Contact: Lindy Bunch, spartanburgeducators@gmail.com

Wisconsin

Food Justice in Northwest Wisconsin (various groups), Barron (pages 12-13)

Contact: Arianne Peterson, arianne.peterson@gmail.com

Washington DC

ENGAGE Network Office (pages 14-15)

Contact: Mandy Skinner, mandy@engagetheworld.org

2010 INTERNSHIP DETAILS

What we offer

Though our bases and ally organizations are diverse, all ENGAGE internships will provide opportunities for training, mentoring, and hands-on experience in grassroots organizing. ENGAGE will also provide resources in the form of a common training for all interns and access to common organizing tools. Internships are currently unpaid, though we will work with you to make them financially possible (ie helping you find other part time work in the area). We will also do what we can to support you in getting school credit for internships. Each base has different resources; please contact them individually with specific questions about logistics, including housing, transportation, etc.

Length of summer internships

Most bases want interns for 2 to 3 months (between May-August). Start and end dates are flexible, and shorter and longer internships are an option for many of these locations and projects. Please let us know your availability in the space provided on the application. Note: The DC ENGAGE office is looking for interns on an on-going basis, including spring and fall semesters.

Intern responsibilities

In addition to the specific project work you will be doing on the ground with your host organization(s), part of being an ENGAGE intern is actively connecting this local work to other ENGAGE bases, the larger ENGAGE network, and national and international social movements. As this is the first year ENGAGE has coordinated internships among bases, our 2010 interns will be responsible for helping us develop a successful model that we can continue to build upon. Also keep in mind that interns will be representatives of ENGAGE within communities that are just beginning to learn about our network. Thus, we are looking for interns who are highly motivated, flexible, and strongly committed to the idea of movement-building within the ENGAGE framework.

Interns will be expected to:

- Attend the 2010 ENGAGE Convergence, June 18-20, and an accompanying training (*we will waive registration fees for all interns and do what we can to help with transportation costs*)
- Be part of regular conference call check-ins throughout the summer with interns in other locations, as well as the ENGAGE steering committee and ENGAGE network coordinators
- Assist ENGAGE bases in realizing network wide goals through developing trainings and workshops with communities you are working in.
- Make time for reflection, analysis, and documentation throughout the summer. Interns will write regular updates to share with the wider network. Taking photos and recording audio and video is also encouraged; written reflections and media can be posted to ENGAGE's blog, flickr page and youtube channel.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the Common Application and submit via email to Mandy Skinner at mandy@engagetheworld.org by **Friday, March 12th**, making sure that the subject line indicates which internship location you are applying for, ie: "Internship Application - New Orleans." Also attach any additional information requested by the specific base you are applying to work with.

Send the **\$25 application fee** to the Network Office at the same time the application is submitted. You can mail a check to the address below or pay online. Please see the website for further instructions. (**NOTE:** If you feel that the application fee is a financial burden, please contact one of the Network Coordinators. We are more than willing to waive the fee if necessary.)

ENGAGE USA
1525 Newton St NW
Washington, DC 20010

ENGAGE Network Coordinators or individual base representatives may contact you with questions or to set up an interview. Again, please feel free to contact bases directly with specific questions at any point in the application process. Placement decisions will be made by early April.

Keep in mind that internships are a new project for ENGAGE, and creating intern positions is also new for many of the local groups and individuals we're partnering with. Your personal motivation, creativity, flexibility, and patience are key to a successful internship experience.

We're excited that you're interested in building this vision with us and look forward to reading your application!

About ENGAGE

ENGAGE (the Educational Network for Global and Grassroots Exchange) is a coalition of former participants of community-based experiential education programs that focus on social and environmental justice. We work to translate these experiences into lifelong connections and cooperative action between peoples and social movements working towards a just and sustainable world. Most of our current members participated in one of two study abroad programs we're partnered with: CIEE-Thailand and CGE-Mexico. We welcome new ENGAGE members with other experiences!

Visit our website and blog to learn more about ENGAGE: www.engagetheworld.org and globalgrassroots.wordpress.com

Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights USA (ESCR-USA)

Eastern Kentucky

Who We Are

ESCR USA is an ENGAGE working group that was formed by returning CIEE Thailand students at the beginning of 2009. Inspired by the process of documenting violations of economic, social, and cultural rights in Thai communities, these students wanted to bring the human rights framework to communities in the United States.

In the past year, ESCR USA has developed a relationship with Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) and has completed an ESCR report in collaboration with KFTC's Floyd County, Kentucky chapter, documenting human rights abuses as they relate to coal mining activities in the members' communities.

Moving forward, ESCR USA will be solidifying a plan with KFTC to continue our partnership and continue exploring the human rights framework as an organizing tool in eastern Kentucky. This could include writing reports with other communities, working on other projects as decided in conjunction with community members, facilitating educational workshops and trainings related to human rights, and exploring application of a human rights framework.

Eventually, ESCR USA hopes to help connect different communities and struggles through the common language of human rights.

How You Can Work with Us

Please note that this description is subject to change as the needs of the communities and our relationship with KFTC become clearer and more defined.

Because interns will be working with each other, but often without supervision, self-initiative and ability to work cooperatively in a small group are critical. Prior experience will be helpful, but is certainly not required. ESCR-USA wishes to hire capable, imaginative, and eager interns.

Position	What	Where	When	How
2-3 ESCR USA Summer Interns	Work with KFTC and community members in Kentucky to strengthen understanding of human rights in Floyd County and create another human rights report in another Eastern KY community.	Eastern Kentucky, potentially Floyd County and Harlan County. Interns will be supported by Mariela Rich, an ESCR-USA coordinator based in Lexington, Kentucky, other ESCR-USA members, and KFTC organizers.	Beginning June 1st. Can be 2-4 month internship, depending on needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Build and expand upon relationships with community members and coordinate efforts with KFTC organizers.- Strategize and execute the creation of a human rights report with a community.- Design and facilitate human rights workshops.- Connect KFTC communities around human rights.- Attend KFTC meetings and events.- Other responsibilities as needed.

Our School at Blair Grocery

New Orleans, LA

Our School at Blair Grocery (OSBG) is an independent community school located in the old Blair family grocery in the Lower 9th Ward. Our students are 15-19 year old youth who have not been going to school and who need and deserve an engaging curriculum in a supportive environment. OSBG strengthens the skills, knowledge, human capital, and confidence in our youth by involving them in sustainable community development projects. Our curriculum utilizes the best practices in education, offering learner-centered, outcome-based, transformative, place-based and feedback-driven teaching through experiential projects. The Lower 9th Ward, New Orleans, and the Gulf Coast are the classroom. Social entrepreneurship and community-based economic development are the curriculum, making math, science and social studies come alive. Community resilience is strengthened, as is the local capacity for self-determination. Students contribute meaningfully to their community, which nurtures strong principles and a profound sense of efficacy and agency. In the past year, our students have turned vacant lots surrounding the school into farmland, sold their own produce at our weekly farmers market (the neighborhood's first since long before Katrina), and designed their own community projects, all while preparing for the GED.

New Orleans Internship Positions

Position - Who	What	Where	When	How
After-school Program Coordinator - for those who can work with children on meaningful and educative projects	Create after-school activities and curriculum for neighborhood children that are fun, engaging, and educative toward sustainability	Lower 9th Ward, and New Orleans, LA	Start anytime (spring, summer, fall dates available, flexible), 3 month minimum, longer commitment preferred	Research and design projects that teach basic skills, help with the school, and educate kids for sustainability
OSBG: Community Development Assistant - for those interested in community-driven solutions to housing and infrastructure development	Work alongside Housing Development Coordinator, local youth, and partners to develop sustainable housing development proposal	Lower 9th Ward, and New Orleans, LA	Start anytime (spring, summer, fall dates available, flexible), 3 month minimum, longer commitment preferred	Collect information and data from residents, research, write, network
OSBG: Soil Building and Farm Assistant - for those who like physical work and educating people about soil and food	Combine "waste" materials to create wonderful soil, help with the farm, develop curriculums / ideas for monthly workshop series	Lower 9th Ward, and New Orleans, LA	Start anytime (spring, summer, fall dates available, flexible), 3 month minimum, longer commitment preferred	Compile information and resources on soil building and farming to create workshops,

New Orleans, LA

Our School at Blair Grocery

Application

Familiarize yourself with our work by reading the blog: www.ourschoolatblairgrocery.org. Send specific project ideas, curriculum examples (lesson plans), writing samples, and a job description relevant to the position or positions that you would like to be considered for. Send your ideal time commitment. We may be able to apply for funding to support your work.

Logistics

We will have to work out a housing plan. There are a few couches, living rooms, cots, abandoned buildings, and attics that may be an option for interns. Otherwise, NOFEMA and OSBG will try to assist interns in finding appropriate housing.

Be aware that major city challenges – transportation, infrastructure – will both inform and impact your experience. You can easily get around New Orleans on bike, though it is not the safest. There is limited public transportation.

Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ)

New York, NY

Who We Are

ENGAGE–NY is a collection of ENGAGE members involved in local community organizing and popular education efforts throughout New York City. The goals of our work are to strengthen local community organizing efforts by setting up movement-building exchanges and popular education activities with and amongst movements and organizations in NY and beyond.

For the summer of 2010 we are offering a part-time internship that will primarily work with one of the organizations that we are involved in—Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ), but might involve support work of other grassroots organizing efforts in NYC. JFREJ is a membership-based organization founded in 1990. JFREJ organizes the Jewish community in NY to work for racial and economic justice in partnership with low- income communities of color in New York City.

JFREJ currently has two campaigns: the housing justice campaign and the Shalom Bayit campaign. The housing justice campaign works with three coalitions in the NYC to create a foundation for those most directly affected by gentrification to have a sustainable hold on their communities.

Housing justice organizes people in a position of gentrifying neighborhoods to work in solidarity with those under stress from raising rents to preserve and create affordable housing. The Shalom Bayit campaign works in solidarity with Domestic Workers United, an organization of nannies, elder care givers, and house cleaners. We organize employers of domestic workers and other members of the jewish community to transform power dynamics between domestic workers and employers on an inter-personal level, through community education, and a structural level, through legislation that will ensure domestic workers have basic labor rights.

How you can work with us

We are offering a part-time, semi-structured internship opportunity ideal for someone who takes self-initiative, is familiar with NYC and wants to get involved in local organizing efforts. The internship involves a 15- 20 hour a week time commitment, and will be facilitated and supported by ENGAGE members in the city. This is a good opportunity for someone interested in building skills in solidarity organizing, community based education, and base-building. Prior organizing experience is good but not required and a flexible and open attitude is a must. Housing is not offered through this internship and must be arranged by the intern.

Position	What	Where	When	How
NYC Community Organizing Internship	Work with local community organizing efforts in NYC, particularly Jews for Racial and Economic Justice.	New York City. JFREJ is located in midtown Manhattan.	Start June 1. Three-month summer internship.	Gain skills in facilitating community based education and solidarity organizing.

Spartanburg Educators for Empowered Communities (SEEC)

Spartanburg, South Carolina

Who We Are

SEEC consists of educators who believe that education can and should lead to engaged citizenship for a more just and sustainable world. We are positioned in a rapidly developing Upstate SC area in the heart of the modern “New South”—the first “Global South.” Within this context:

- We see the dire need for social change in an area where industrial exploitation and environmental degradation, landlessness, a history of union busting, a continued legacy of racial injustice, religious intolerance, and all forms of economic and social oppression have worked to hinder the development of true community.
- We believe that true education liberates, empowers, and motivates individuals and communities to act upon injustice.
- We affirm the belief that strong communities are crucial to strengthening the rights of individuals and creating a just world.
- We believe that local efforts to affect change must work in alliance with global social justice and environmental sustainability movements, and that educational models for social and environmental change can help make this happen most effectively.

What We Are Doing

SEEC’s big goal is to help educators, students, and marginalized communities and people work together to transform education and society. Currently, we have two major streams of work: (1) helping transform a community service center at an area college, and (2) organizing in the neighborhood of Glendale, a former textile mill village, where we are helping folk begin to work together to determine the future of their community in the face of gentrification and urban development. Interns working with SEEC in 2010 will primarily serve as community-based interns in Glendale.

How You Can Work with Us!

Please note that these are subject to change as the needs of the community we work in (Glendale, SC) become clearer and more defined. However, your work will likely be in one of these three areas.

Spartanburg Educators for Empowered Communities (SEEC)

Spartanburg, South Carolina

SEEC Internship Positions for 2010

Position	What	Where	When	How
Summer Youth Programming Coordinator	Work with youth and community members in Glendale to create programs to engage and educate	Primarily in Glendale, SC; potential for collaboration with other youth-focused orgs in Spartanburg	Start June 1. Can be 2-6 month internship, depending on needs.	Build relationships with youth and coordinate efforts with parents/concerned adults
Food Systems Coordinator	Work with Glendale community members & others on local food system	Glendale, SC and (potentially) local farms within 50 miles of city	Start June 1. Can be 2-6 month internship, depending on needs.	Build relationships in Glendale through shared experiences such as working in the garden, sharing food, and building an understanding of food systems in Glendale
Power Analyst & Oral History Project Coordinator	Power mapping of Spartanburg and work with Glendale community members on oral history collection	Glendale, SC	Start June 1. Can be 2-6 month internship, depending on needs.	Build relationships and encourage sharing of stories and histories of people in Glendale

NOTE: Prior experience in these areas is good, but certainly not required. SEEC wishes to hire capable, imaginative, and eager interns who are willing to learn alongside staff and community.

Food Justice in Northwest Wisconsin

Barron, Wisconsin

Our Vision

As organizers in Northwest Wisconsin, we use issues of food sovereignty as a foundation upon which to build strong, healthy communities empowered to work together in shaping their own futures. We believe in the power of community-based education to facilitate both collective action at the ground level and solidarity with larger global movements.

Our Community and Issues

Northwest Wisconsin is a very rural region that has maintained strong agricultural traditions despite the injustices of the current food economy, including the fact that many of our farmers cannot afford to meet their own basic needs. Poverty and hunger, racism, and educational gaps are just some of the challenges we face as we work to build a socially just and environmentally responsible food system.

In the next year, we will focus most of our energy in and around the community of Barron, Wisconsin—one of the larger towns in the area with just over 3,000 residents. Barron is unique in the region because it is home to a large number of Somali refugees, many of whom work at the Hormel turkey processing plant in town.

We have developed relationships with several different community members and ally groups to serve as a strong foundation for our food sovereignty movement:

- Youth leaders including those from the Somali community, the Barron County Boys' & Girls' Club, and 4-H and FFA clubs engaged in community gardening and other projects;
- Families who use economic support programs and are part of a Family Table Cooking Club;
- Farmers who are serving local markets and/or participating in an organic mentoring program;
- Students and staff involved in pre-college and service learning programs at UW-Barron County, a 2-year campus in nearby Rice Lake.

In the next year, we plan to bring these and other regional community members together in ways that foster a deeper understanding of food justice issues and the power of collective action.

Internships Available

We would like to invite interns to join us in Barron, Wisconsin, to help us more deeply engage these different community groups and guide them in finding common ground and taking action together. The three positions below are based on current community needs; with a longer-term commitment, interns' work would evolve based on future needs and personal interests.

Food Justice in Northwest Wisconsin

Barron, Wisconsin

Internships are currently unpaid, but assistance with housing, local transportation, and food is available. We would also be happy to help interns find part-time paid work in the community and assist with any fundraising efforts. Access to a personal vehicle is very helpful in this area, but not absolutely necessary. Please contact us if you would like more specific information on logistics.

Position	Description	Responsibilities	Desired Qualifications	When
Youth Outreach Coordinator	Work with a variety of youth groups & individuals to further develop & connect current community food projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate youth involvement in community garden - Coordinate entrepreneurial efforts with older youth - Strengthen group dynamics & individual skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience with and/or desire to work with youth - Ability to work with people from diverse cultural backgrounds - Basic gardening & light construction skills 	Ideal start date is May 15 th , with a commitment through at least the end of August
Adult Outreach Coordinator	Work with low-income adults to further develop & connect current community food projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outreach to include new participants - Event coordination - Strengthen group dynamics & individual skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to facilitate small and large-group discussions - Ability to work with people from diverse cultural backgrounds - Spanish skills would be helpful 	Ideal start date would be April 1 st - May 15 th , with a commitment through at least the end of August
Public Outreach Coordinator	Work with community members to use creative media (written narratives, visual & theatre arts, etc.) to raise awareness about community food projects & issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage youth and adults in developing & implementing projects - Coordinate with organizers to prioritize target issues & audiences - Use creative projects to develop participants' understanding of issues and build group skills & dynamics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience with and/or strong interest in creative, community and issue-based arts - Strong written & oral communication skills - Ability to work with people of different ages and from diverse cultural backgrounds 	Flexible; ideally would correspond with dates of Youth & Adult Outreach Coordinator positions

ENGAGE Network Office

Washington DC

ENGAGE office interns will work closely with our two network coordinators, Shintaro Doi and Mandy Skinner. See website for bios: <http://engagetheworld.org/ENGAGETeam.html>. The DC ENGAGE office is looking for interns on an on-going basis, including spring and fall semesters.

Location

Our office is located on the 3rd floor of St. Stephen's Church at 1525 Newton St NW; the neighborhood is the edge of Columbia Heights, bordering Mount Pleasant. St. Stephen's has a long tradition of social justice organizing and is a thriving and active community space with an event calendar that is always booked! We share a large room with several other organizations; currently CISPEs, Girls Rock DC and the Homeless Children's Playtime Project. A great mix of media, arts, education, social service/advocacy, and social justice organizations call this church their home, including the Washington Peace Center which has been around since 1963. St. Stephen's provides an inspiring and supportive environment to work in, and we're happy to be there. Check out the list of all groups using the building: <http://www.saintstephensdc.org/buildinguse.html>

Intern expectations / Office schedule

We are looking for interns who can commit to 10-15 hours a week. You will be able to set your own hours and fit ENGAGE work around other work or classes in the city. As network coordinators we both work other part-time jobs. We try to be in the office 2-3 days a week in the mornings, and we also work from home. Having interns coming into the office would help us stick to a more regular schedule, and also help us have more of a presence at St. Stephen's - building relationships with our office-mates and other groups in the building is important to us! That said, depending on your schedule you're welcome to work from other locations other than the office as well (we certainly do), as long as you are in the office at least once a week.

Every Monday morning we do a "weekly forecast" together to check-in and shape our to-do lists for the week. Every 2 weeks on Thursdays we have a longer meeting for updates, discussions, and decisions. Every month we make time for a more personal check in to talk about how we're doing and reflect on how we're working together. Conference calls with our board, steering committee, and working groups happen on a regular basis.

Available Internships (see descriptions on next page)

- Communications Intern
- Development Intern
- ESCR-USA Intern

ENGAGE Network Office

Washington DC

Communications Intern

Are you blog, web, and social media savvy? Are you a strong writer and editor? Do you like to connect people? Then this may be the internship for you. Projects and tasks may include:

- Coordinating monthly newsletter and maintaining blog
- Conducting surveys and interviews throughout the network
- Writing profiles of our bases, working groups, and other member projects for newsletter and blog
- Updating our database
- Updating website and wiki
- Evaluating our internal communication systems and helping to streamline them/make them more effective

Development Intern

Want to dig into the nuts and bolts of running a non-profit? Interested in researching and writing grants? Have big ideas for grassroots fundraising campaigns? Then we need you! Your internship will focus on organizational development and strategic planning for the long haul sustainability of the ENGAGE network:

- Training in Grant Writing: We will set you up with trainings in the DC area to learn the how-tos of researching and writing grants
- Grassroots Funding Development: Help us launch the ENGAGE Sustainer Program and mobilize our membership; develop and share materials on grassroots fundraising with the network
- Mentoring: DC is home to the national offices of countless organizations and student networks that you can research and learn from. We will do our best to connect you to a wide range of mentors; expect this kind of intentional outreach to other orgs. to be a central part of your internship.

ESCR-USA Intern

Are you excited about supporting the ESCR-USA Mobilization? You could play an important role in moving this work forward, on the national level. You will work with ENGAGE network coordinators and ESCR-USA coordinators to determine projects that will best support ESCR-USA. Projects and tasks may include:

- Researching and connecting with national and international human rights organizations, universities, or community development programs
- Creating human rights workshops and trainings for use by ENGAGE bases
- Working with ENGAGE bases interested in exploring integration of human rights framework into their organizing
- Working with ENGAGE National Office and development intern to find and apply for funding
- Participating in ESCR-USA conference calls
- Maintaining the ESCR-USA wiki page