

CSU & Iman Village/Trinity UCC /Nehemiah Rising

Social and Environmental Justice Internship

PROJECT: FOOD DESERTS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO as ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM and INJUSTICE

Internship Description

The Green Committee of Trinity United Church of Christ is seeking a motivated Sociology ,Political Science Environmental Science(or other related field of study) intern, who is ready to apply knowledge gained from research and analysis to issues that impact underserved communities regarding environmental racism from a present day and historical perspective. Environmental racism, is defined as: “the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on people of color.” Environmental racism can take the form of, but not be limited to, lower quality of air and drinking water, as well as what are known as food deserts. Historically, African Americans through forced enslavement and sharecropping, have played an essential but dehumanizing role as unpaid commodities or as the exploited “human tools” that enabled America’s food system. (This historical reality is to be distinguished from the honorable role played by today’s Black and Brown farm owners). Today, a majority of African Americans and other people of color are relegated to intentionally, politically and racially created living environments (and related ‘hazards”) known as food deserts, which serve as another link in the environmental injustice choke hold chain, around underserved communities in Chicago, Illinois. Community grassroot initiated responses are beginning to develop. The intern will research the issue of food deserts as environmental racism, with respect to the South Side of Chicago; assist with gathering data and with compiling a report for the community stakeholders as needed to build a coalition to support equity in environmental policies, focused upon addressing food deserts as environmental racism.

Interns Duties and Responsibilities

- Learning or reviewing as a way of orientation, and context for position, the origins, mission, goals, objectives and methodology of the Green Committee of Trinity United Church of Christ, including, but not limited to interviews/conversations with local leaders of the organization.

- Perform research and analysis on underserved Chicago southside communities identified as a food desert, including the social and other impact upon such communities
- Asset mapping of underserved southside communities
- Develop a database of community gardens, urban farms, and farmer's markets on the southside
- Assist with compiling a report for stakeholders
- Conduct additional duties on the project upon request

Requirements

- Sociology, Political Science, or related major
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Experience with Microsoft Office
- Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Detail-oriented with strong organizational skills

Benefits

- Practical experience gained through varied experiences that build competency
- Opportunity to attend meetings and networking
- Mentoring and training with experienced social justice professionals
- Opportunity to apply scholarly research to resolving current day needs of real-life community concerns
- Flexible schedule for the semester

About Us

The Green Committee of Trinity United Church of Christ seeks to foster a community that embraces a life in balance with the environment anchored by our faith as being good stewards of the earth. We manifest this mission by doing three things:

1. **Educating** ourselves and others how to live a sustainable lifestyle
2. **Advocacy** on issues that impact the environment in harmful ways
3. **Practicing** sustainability in our daily lives at home and in the community

To apply, email your resume, a cover letter expressing your interest in the internship, a letter of recommendation from a CSU faculty member to Green@trinitychicago.org.

PROFESSOR:

INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT CONTACT/SUPERVISORS

Darcy Carter

Phone: 773-641-1871

E-mail: Green@trinitychicago.org

And

Juliette Tyson

Phone: 773-401-1343 or 773-530-7985

E-mail: juliettejtyson@gmail.com