STUDENT JOB POSTING

Department Name:
Center for Teaching and Learning

Job Title:
Pedagogical Research Associate - Four positions

Term/Start Date:
October 1st, 2018 – December 21st, 2018 (with possibility of position continuing)

Job Description:

The Center for Teaching and Learning works with faculty, instructional staff, and other campus partners to provide a rigorous liberal arts education in a vibrant, inclusive learning community. We work on all aspects of course and curricular development, implementation and assessment. Please see our website for more information about who we are and what we do.

We are hiring four students to work with us as partners to assist and provide leadership in researching complex teaching and learning issues. Each student will be hired in one of two focus areas.

Two associates will focus on better understanding the impact of Being Human in STEM and inclusive pedagogies in STEM at Amherst College. These associates will review relevant literature on inclusive pedagogies and existing Amherst specific data and conduct focus groups with students who have various experiences with inclusive teaching practices being employed in Amherst College STEM courses. Following transcription and analysis of the focus group conversations, associates will collaborate with other team members to develop recommendations for next steps and identify factors that assist in the creation of a welcoming and inclusive learning community in STEM.

Two associates will focus on better understanding the ways that student voice is captured and leveraged through course evaluations to impact student learning at Amherst College. Specifically, this team will review existing literature about course evaluations, especially focused on best practices and implicit bias, and existing Amherst College course evaluation data. They will use this to develop and conduct focus groups
with students to gather feedback about students’ experience with a course evaluation pilot conducted at Amherst College over a two year period (Fall 2016 - Spring 2018). This course evaluation pilot was designed to elicit feedback about student learning that faculty could use to improve their teaching and to lesson the possibility of implicit bias in the feedback that students provided through the course evaluations.

The associates will work in their team with a Center for Teaching and Learning staff member as their supervisor. In coordination with the CTL, the teams will attend a conference on leading student led focus groups, develop frameworks of inquiry for their focus group area, lead the focus groups, transcribe the work of the focus group and help analyze the data with the goal of developing recommendations on pedagogical process and practice improvement.

One or more of the associates may continue their work through Spring 2019 or beyond depending upon the findings and the action plan developed as a result of those findings.

Approximate Number of Hours: 5 hours/week

The hours will vary each week depending on the tasks, but the work will average five hours a week with the possibility of working as many as ten hours in one week for a limited time during the transcription and analysis phase of the project. This phase will last no more than one or two weeks and the expected hours worked will be negotiable.

See requirements for extended hour expectations Friday October 5th – Sunday, October 7th. You must be available to attend this workshop.

Requirements:

- Demonstrated interest in areas within the scope of research associate responsibilities. This may include, but is not limited to, demonstrated interest in teaching, learning, assessment, pedagogy, diversity, inclusive practices, or cognitive and intellectual development. This may be demonstrated through coursework, research and thesis work, previous employment, or other ways that you can demonstrate a vested interest in questions about teaching and learning.
- Demonstrated ability in each of the following
  o Listen carefully and build an inclusive environment
  o Collect and analyze qualitative data
  o Work on a team
  o Communicate well in speech and writing
Students must be available Friday, October 5th – Sunday, October 7th for a workshop at Southern New Hampshire University in Hooksett, New Hampshire. We will drive together, leaving Amherst College at approximately 4pm on October 5th and returning on Sunday, October 7th. The workshop runs from 9am on Saturday, October 6th – until 4pm on Sunday, October 7th. We will return to Amherst immediately after, arriving at approximately 7pm. More information about the workshop is available here. All registration and travel costs associated with the workshop will be covered by the CTL.

Hourly Wage:
$15/hour plus $300 stipend for attending the workshop October 5th – 7th.

How to Apply:
Please submit your materials through this google form as soon as possible. Review of applicants will begin immediately with the goal of hiring all four associates by Tuesday, October 2nd.

Contact Name: Riley Caldwell-O’Keefe, rcaldwellokeefe@amherst.edu, 413-542-5915 or Sarah Bunnell, sbunnell@amherst.edu, 413-542-5107

Address:
Frost Library, Center for Teaching and Learning

Application Deadline:
Priority consideration given to applicants submitting materials by Thursday, September 27th. All materials must be submitted by October 1st, 2018 at noon.