

EAST Core Curricular Development Intern-Level 1 Request for Applications

The **EAST®** program is unlike any other model in modern education. It is a project-based, service-learning oriented program that provides students with high-end technology available in the most progressive fields in the world. At its heart, the EAST program is a coordinated effort to provide today's students with an educational atmosphere that allows them to gain insight into their own abilities to acquire and use information, solve problems and gain valuable experience. Since its inception in 1996, the EAST model has expanded to over 200 schools in five states (Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania). Traditionally, the EAST program has been an elective class designed without a set curriculum but with a set of ideals that govern student participation.

There has long been a desire to move the EAST program model into curricular areas so that all students within a school can experience the benefits of the EAST model. With support from the Arkansas Department of Education and STEM Works, **EAST Core** was designed to build upon the success of the EAST program model by incorporating best practices into core classes. Additional information on the EAST Initiative, EAST Program, and EAST Core can be found at <http://www.eastinitiative.org>.

Background: EAST Core is in its second year and currently in seven school districts and serving 2100 students throughout Arkansas. Student's participating in EAST Core apply the concepts that they are learning in their core classes via real world, project-based learning. In addition to gaining a deeper understanding of the material covered in each course, students gain valuable experiences that will prepare them for their life after high school such as: problem solving, critical thinking, public speaking, teamwork, presentations, and access to cutting edge technology.

Scope of Work / Expectations of Interns: To assist in the further development of the EAST Core program, EAST is seeking eligible and qualified interns to assist with the further development of projects for the program. Selected interns will be expected to complete a series of project-based learning experiences to be used in EAST Core classrooms throughout the state. These projects are to be based upon real world problems, require students to apply concepts from their core classes to solve these problems, expose students to sophisticated technology, be of varying length, include examples of assessment measures, and include suggested local, state, and national community partners that could help with the completion of projects. Each intern will be assigned (intern input will be considered in these decisions) a course from the Arkansas Department of Education from which to build projects. Interns will be asked to provide weekly updates on their progress to the internship coordinator. Interns are expected to complete and document 150 hours of work during the course of the internship. This is an unpaid position and interns are encouraged to apply for other employment. Other than the one day of mandatory training that must be completed before beginning the internship, the internship can be completed remotely.

Eligible applicants: Eligible applicants include graduating high school seniors with extensive EAST experience, undergraduate students, or graduate students currently enrolled or that were enrolled during the 2013-2014 school year. Applicants from all majors will be considered and are encouraged to apply. However, special consideration will be given to applicants that are planning on seeking licensure to teach at the middle or high school level and to individuals that plan on pursuing a career in a STEM field.

Training: Selected interns will be asked to attend one day of on-site training here in Little Rock. Periodic meetings throughout the internship will be required and can be completed in person at our offices in Little Rock or via web conferencing software. Interns will be expected to review some materials prior to the initial day of training. EAST Core staff will also be available throughout your time as an intern to assist you in curriculum development.

Value to selected interns: Projects completed by the interns and judged by EAST Core staff to be of high quality will be published on our website for use by teachers throughout the state. Interns will gain valuable experience working for a well-respected national educational non-profit organization. Interns will gain experience applying the concepts of project-based learning to core curriculum areas. This internship is designed to be a springboard for interns into educational fields. After completing the EAST Core Curricular Development Internship Level 1, successful interns will be eligible to apply for additional internships with EAST Core as they become available.

Application Process:

All interested applicants are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should submit the following materials digitally (pdf format) to James Hopper (core-internships@eaststaff.org) by **5:00 pm on Monday April 14th, 2014.**

- Their resume or Vita
- A digital copy of all college and high school transcripts (if applicable)
- One letter of recommendation from a teacher, EAST facilitator, or professor
- A 500 word or less essay describing
 - Why you are applying for this internship
 - What best qualifies you to complete the internship
 - What experience do you have with project-based learning

Questions may be directed to James Hopper via email at core-internships@eaststaff.org

Proposed Schedule:

The East Initiative will seek to notify selected interns by Friday May 2nd via email.

Interns will be required to attend one day of on-site training at the EAST offices in Little Rock on Monday May 12th.

Interns will be asked to submit completed projects by September 1st, 2014.

Any selected Interns will serve at the pleasure of EAST and either EAST or the Interns may terminate the relationship described herein at any time by giving written notice to the other party.

Selection Process and Criteria:

The EAST Initiative will establish a review panel and conduct a comprehensive and impartial evaluation of proposals received. Reviewers will assess applications based on the following criteria:

1. Resume or Vita

- GPA
- Major
- Awards or honors
- Leadership roles
- Extracurricular activities
- Teaching experience
- Experience with Project-Based Learning
- Experience with Service Learning
- Writing experience

2. 500 word essay

- Grammar
- Clarity
- Answer to “why are you applying?”
- Answer to “what qualifies you to complete the internship?”
- Answer to “What experience do you have with project-based learning?”

3. Letter of recommendation

- Strength of recommendation
- Specific strengths mentioned in letter

Scoring will be based upon information obtained from the applicants and from contacts with the applicants, if appropriate. Final decisions will be based on the judgment of the review team.

The EAST Initiative reserves the right to withdraw this RFP without prior notice. The EAST Initiative reserves the right to reject any or all proposals based upon the quality of proposals received. The EAST Initiative is under no obligation to contact respondents for clarification of application, but shall reserve the right to do so at any time prior to award.