

# MARY GIBSON STUDENT-LABOR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## INTRODUCTION

Are you an activist? Would you like to be one? Do you complain – to your friends, to your professors, to anyone who will listen – about how the University, corporations, and/or the government do not meet your needs? Do you ever gripe--verbally, virtually, or visually—about the injustice(s) you witness? Do you hope to make change in the community around you?

If you answered “yes” to any/all of these questions, then you are one step closer to becoming a student organizer. A student organizer can be anyone, from any place, of any identity(ies), but the common thread that ties all student organizers together is the commitment to fostering a powerful community, in order to achieve a collective goal. In other words, a student organizer will work WITH people in their community to identify a collective issue—something that directly/indirectly affects the organizer themselves and many of the people they are working with; then, their community will gain enough collective power to demand that those who can will give them what they want, such as a University President granting a tuition freeze. This necessitates an understanding of power dynamics, strategy, recruitment, relationship-building, history, and much more.

Being a student organizer takes training, experience, and, most importantly, time. Thus, the Rutgers AAUP-AFT—the union that represents the faculty at Rutgers University on all campuses—would like to provide you with the space and resources to begin or continue your journey in becoming a student organizer through **The Mary Gibson Student-Labor Internship Program**. This Internship Program will be an opportunity for you to not only gain knowledge of what a student organizer is/does but also create a network between you and your peers that are committed to creating change and progress.

## EXPECTATIONS

The Mary Gibson Internship Program will begin on the week of October 2, 2017, continuing throughout the Fall 2017 semester. If selected, you will be granted a \$1,800 stipend.

- **With your selection and acceptance into the program, you will be expected to attend mandatory monthly meetings.**<sup>1</sup>
  - At these meetings, you will have trainings/seminars regarding the fundamentals of student and community organizing. Guest speakers, alumni of the program, and union staff members may attend in order to give their perspective on some of the topics covered.
- **You will be expected to participate in weekly conference calls.**
  - These will be necessary, in order to keep in touch with your cohort and to be updated on upcoming events, information, etc.
- A Google Calendar will be created at the beginning of the Program, and you will be responsible for updating it with events/actions you are taking part in, so that other Interns may attend or recruit others to do so.

1. For those who are not on the Rutgers University-New Brunswick Campus, there will be an effort made to meet on the Newark and/or Camden campuses, or students will be able to participate in meetings by conference calls, Skype, or Google Hangout. However, in-person attendance is preferred.

- You will be asked to attend weekly, Rutgers One meetings. Rutgers One is a coalition of students, staff, faculty, and community members. You will be notified of when/where these meetings take place.
- **Finally, you are encouraged to keep in contact with your fellow interns outside of the meetings. This is a great opportunity to create a network of people who are or will be doing important work and organizing. This is also an opportunity to foster a support-system, while committing yourself to demanding work.**

APPLICATION, DUE: OCTOBER 2 2017, 5PM

**Please submit a short essay that describes your current interest in student organizing and how The Mary Gibson Internship Program can support that. Consider the following questions when responding:**

- Do you have any experience with student organizing/activism? If so, what? If not, do you believe you have any relatable experience to student organizing? (Think creatively; sometimes the most unlikely experiences can be great sources of inspiration!)
- What issues on the Rutgers University campus or in your community are important to you? How do you believe you can address them as a student organizer and with the support of other people?
- How do you believe being a student impacts your ability to make change?

You may send your response to [aaup@rutgersaaup.org](mailto:aaup@rutgersaaup.org).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mack Miller at (732)-320-7476 or [mack.j.miller@rutgers.edu](mailto:mack.j.miller@rutgers.edu).

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