

Unity College Food and Farm Projects Intern

Unity College's Sustainability Office seeks a motivated, energetic intern to assist in all aspects of hunger relief, food security, and sustainable agriculture work on campus and in the local community. Must have a willingness to learn, ability to work collaboratively and independently, and possess a passion for food, agriculture, and community. Good candidates will have significant experience with manual labor, especially in the agricultural field, and strong written and verbal communication skills. Multi-media competency is a plus. This intern will be expected to support the daily functions of the Veggies For All project, local food and seasonal education efforts at the Volunteer Regional Food Pantry, and other food security or sustainable agriculture related work.

The ideal candidate will be a Unity College student pursuing a degree in Sustainable Agriculture or a related field, with an interest in seriously exploring community food as a career.

Unity College is a small, private college in rural Maine that provides dedicated, engaged students with a liberal arts education that emphasizes the environment and natural resources. Unity College graduates are prepared to be environmental stewards, effective leaders, and responsible citizens through active learning experiences within a supportive community.

Veggies For All, a project of the Unity Barn Raisers, is a community agriculture project that works to relieve hunger by growing vegetables for those in need, while collaborating with partners to distribute and increase access to quality and nutritious food.

Unity Barn Raisers works pro-actively to enhance small-town character and rural environment, while nurturing a thriving community-based economy. UBR, which is guided by ten "Underlying Principles", believes that a community working together can shape its own future, and in so doing, significantly advance the quality of life of its people, both now and for generations to come.

The Volunteer Regional Food Pantry is a 501(c)(3) community-operated food pantry providing emergency and supplementary food and services to those at risk of hunger in the Unity, Maine area. The goal of the VRFP is to increase quality of life through a focus on food security.

PARTICULARS

Time commitment: May 14-August 17, 32 hours/week

Compensation: \$9/hour; access to the Volunteer Regional Food Pantry Community Garden for personal use

For more info: Contact Sara Trunzo. (207) 948-9295 or strunzo@unity.edu

To apply: Send letter, resume, and 3 references to Unity College Sustainability Office 90 Quaker Hill Road Unity, Maine 04988.

*Please note- this position will be filled subject to a pending request for funding. Status of funding will be known in early March.

Food + Farm Projects Intern Job Description

TITLE: Unity College Food and Farm Projects Intern

REPORTS TO: Unity College Food and Farm Projects Coordinator

POSITION SUMMARY:

Part-time position, 35 hours/week, seasonal, May 14 – August 17.

Responsible to 1) support all aspects of agricultural work related to Unity Barn Raisers' Veggies For All project, 2) support the educational, local foods, and general food security efforts of the Volunteer Regional Food Pantry, 3) assist with other community food and sustainable agriculture projects, as related to the work of the Unity College Sustainability Office.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

1. Participate in and support all aspects of agricultural work including, but not limited to: cultivation, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, washing, packing, loading, and unloading.
2. Support staff in community outreach efforts, volunteer recruitment and management, event planning, and administrative duties.
3. Support staff in the maintenance of community food security and education projects, such as demonstration gardens, community gardens, or school gardens.
4. Assist and support coordination of educational programming and local foods acquisition at the Volunteer Regional Food Pantry.
5. Assist and advise in the development of an internship program to provide sustained staffing for this work and ongoing collaboration with Unity College's curriculum.
6. Participate in planning, outreach, and execution of relevant projects, such as UBR's Community Meals program or VRFP's Community Garden program.
7. Participate in relevant meetings and events of partner agencies, as time allows.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS: To successfully perform this job you must be able to perform each essential function satisfactorily. Additionally, the requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability needed.

EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE:

1) experience with manual labor, 2) demonstrated interest in community food security, hunger relief, sustainable agriculture, or related work, 3) comfort with professional and community communications.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: Excellent oral and written communication skills. Ability and willingness to work with individuals from diverse political/socioeconomic backgrounds and a wide range of physical and academic abilities. Ability to work with college personnel, community organizers, and community members.

LANGUAGE SKILLS: Ability to write public relations, marketing, and promotional materials. Ability to write plans, reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals. Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions. Willingness to read, analyze, and interpret general business periodicals, professional journals, technical procedures, or governmental regulations.

WORK SCHEDULE/AVAILABILITY REQUIREMENTS: Generally regular workday hours. Weekend or evening hours possible, at supervisor's discretion.

MATHEMATICAL SKILLS: Ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide in all units of measure, using whole numbers, common fractions and decimals. Ability to calculate percentages. Ability to understand basic budget materials.

REASONING ABILITY: Ability to solve practical problems. Ability to interpret a variety of instructions furnished in written, oral, diagram, or schedule form. Ability to recognize an unsafe technical problem and either correct the problem or report it immediately.

COMPUTER SKILLS: Ability to use word-processing, and spreadsheet programs. Ability to use the Internet, email, and social media in a professional setting. Knowledge of web content creation and management a plus.

OTHER SKILLS AND ABILITIES: Must be able to work independently and be able to work as a member of a team. Working knowledge of a variety of agricultural equipment including hand tools, cultivators, vehicles are a plus. Experience with agricultural or horticultural work is desired; must have willingness to learn. Competency with a variety of media is a plus.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to stand; walk; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools, or controls; reach with hands and arms; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, or crouch.

The employee must occasionally lift and/or move more than fifty (50) pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include distance vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The employee works in both an outdoor setting, and occasionally indoor, such as office, classroom, kitchen, or warehouse settings. Outdoor settings include work on campus, Veggies For All gardens and fields, and food pantry grounds. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate, but will occasionally include equipment-related noise. While performing the duties of this job, the employee regularly works near moving mechanical parts and in outside weather conditions. (PPE) Personal Protective Equipment must be worn when applicable.