CORNELL COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS MINOR PRACTICUM DESCRIPTION

Youth Farm Project

2018

1. **Practicum Title:** Farm and Food Justice Internship

2. **Practicum Host Name:** Youth Farm Project

3. **Practicum Host Agency/Organization Description:** The Youth Farm Project is dedicated to healing our food system through an anti-racism organizing lens by bringing together youth from diverse backgrounds to explore environmental and social injustice within the food system. We believe that through critical thinking and openly learning about these issues, we can begin the healing of our food system, the earth, and ourselves. By developing leadership and communication skills with young people and having them participate in all aspects of food production and farming – from planting to harvesting and distributing, we can increase our unity and hope for positive change in our community and beyond. We operate a 3-acre market garden, the Harvest Box Program, a mobile farmer’s market, a 7 week summer program for 25 teens, year-round field trip opportunities for schools, and the Fresh Snack Program for elementary schools.

4. **Community Partner Practicum Supervisor:** Ann Piombino

5. **Student Responsibilities & Expectations:** (both on site and on-campus)
   a. **On-site:** The farm is a space that fosters growth of relationship, connection, and self determination. We hope the student will be community minded, and join us in becoming critical thinking systems architects to begin the work to reimagine and heal with the land and our food system. Since farming and distribution are at the heart of what we do, the student should be prepared for hands on tasks and responsibilities associated with food production. There are many opportunities depending on the student’s interest for other responsibilities to endeavor. Students should be able to commit to a schedule and notify us of any changes. Students should be comfortable working with all ages of people, especially young people. Personal transportation is highly recommended, though not necessary, we are on a bus line.

   b. **On-campus:** Weekly reflection assignments and group discussion via web or phone conference (standard across all practicums)
6. **Expected Learning Outcomes for student:** The student will have opportunity to learn about farming without synthetic inputs, youth organizing, community organizing, marketing and distribution of vegetables, food justice/food sovereignty/food access, non-profit organizations, fundraising and fundraisers, and educational farms. The student will have opportunities to develop skills in communication, teamwork, public relations, and leading groups of young people in a farm setting.

7. **Location:** Youth Farm Project, 23 Nelson Rd, Ithaca NY (farm) and 1013 West State Street/ MLK Jr. Blvd. Ithaca, NY (office)

8. **Pre-requisites:** Housing

9. **Compensation:** This is a volunteer learning experience.

10. **Performance Evaluation Methods:** We will use a CFS minor standard evaluation as well as a regular scheduled feedback session which we use in our organization called Straight Talk. It is an opportunity to give and receive honest feedback.

**Learning objectives of the minor, overall:**

The CFS Minor intends for students, upon completion of the minor, to be able to:

1. Understand the social, ecological, and agricultural dimensions of community food systems;
2. Learn how to critically analyze food systems, including related controversies, and understand implications for sustainability and social justice;
3. Build knowledge of sustainable and just food system development, grounded in engagement with local communities and organizations;
4. Nurture skills and capacity for interacting with community partners in responsible, reciprocal, and respectful ways.

**Learning objectives of the CFS Minor Practicum:**

The practicum is designed to provide students with an opportunity to:

(1) partner with and learn from individuals directly involved in developing sustainable community food systems; and

(2) under the supervision of these individuals contribute to these initiatives in meaningful ways.