Paid Intern Needed for Prison Creative Writing Program!

Application Deadline: Monday, April 6th, 2020

The Pen City Writers internship is a paid student-technician position in the UT English Department. The Pen City Writers is a three-year, creative-writing certificate program for men incarcerated at a maximum security prison in southern Texas. The incarcerated students earn UT college credit, publish their own journal, have their own library, and are learning to be writers and thinkers behind bars. The intern is primarily responsible for organizational support and does not go to the prison. The director of the program is Deb Olin Unferth, a creative writing professor at UT. The internship will begin Summer 2020. The pay is $17 an hour, an average of 5 hours a week.

Duties:

- Scan, print, and organize student work
- Correspond with volunteers
- Brainstorm with the director and other participants about program initiatives
- Keep track of complicated program details
- Help plan and run the annual book drive
- Help put together our prison-writings journal
- Revise documents, work on the volunteer newsletter, and other light writing tasks
- Help organize occasional PCW events

Requirements:

- Must be comfortable working and corresponding with incarcerated men. You do not go to the prison, and you do not need to use your full name in correspondence, but you must communicate with students about class-related matters in an empathetic and professional manner.
- Strong attention to detail and excellent organizational skills.
- Should be able to work five to seven hours per week.
- Undergrad and grad students welcome to apply. Duties vary slightly depending on experience.
- English or Creative Writing student preferred, but others considered. Must enjoy reading, writing, and creative problem solving.
- The position is year-round. We work all through summer and part of winter break. It is fine to be away for a couple of weeks here and there, but preference will be given to the candidate who will be in Austin for a good part of the summer, and at least part of winter break.
How to Apply:

If interested, please e-mail your resume, cover letter, the name and e-mail address of one reference, and answers to the questions below to Deb Olin Unferth at debou@utexas.edu.

1. What makes this position a good fit for you?
2. Do you have any experience working with at-risk or incarcerated populations?
3. The PCW students often write about trauma, violence, injustice, personal anguish, suicidal thoughts, racism, and other triggering topics. In addition, they may not have the same political views as you. Would this be hard for you to handle in a professional manner?
4. The bulk of your work would be scanning, printing, organizing student work, and e-mailing volunteers. Do you have any work experience with detail-oriented work such as this?