



## COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM AT MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE SAFE PLACE FELLOW BASED AT THE PECK FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Massachusetts Promise Fellows deliver the resources that young people need to be successful in life by **mobilizing** and **organizing** community activity, **creating** and **leading** powerful initiatives, and **training** and **inspiring** citizen volunteers.

The **Massachusetts Promise Fellowship** achieves this by placing Fellows with non-profit organizations and state/local government agencies that focus on fulfilling the needs of our youth by providing; *a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, a marketable skill, and an opportunity to give back.*

### SERVICE DESCRIPTION

The **Community-Based Learning Program (CBL) at Mount Holyoke College (MHC)** links students with communities through courses, independent studies, internships, research, and service projects which combine learning and analysis with action and social change. The William R. Peck Full Service Community School (Peck) is a Holyoke public K-8 School, and a strategic partner to CBL. Since 2008, Peck has worked to become a Full Service Community School to strengthen academic performance and increase family engagement, to meet needs and aspirations among students and families. The Safe Place Fellow will be hosted by the Peck school and sponsored by the MHC CBL Program to provide programming to support student transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The Fellow will build upon existing partnerships to support academic achievement and college awareness at Peck, and develop new partnerships at Holyoke High School with a special focus on improving the high school transition. The Fellow will recruit teams of 8<sup>th</sup> and former Peck 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> graders for joint service projects to build cohorts, create "alumni" support networks, design orientations, develop youth empowerment programming, and plan and oversee projects focused on learning, action, and advocacy.

### SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Establish an "alumni club" for Peck graduates at Holyoke High School that plans orientation and 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade transition programs for subsequent Peck graduates
- Enlist alumni to define academic and social support needs for 9<sup>th</sup> graders and subsequent entrants
- Support the flow of volunteer support from Mount Holyoke and other area colleges to after-school academic and social enrichment programming by recruiting, preparing, and providing orientation to college tutors and mentors
- Serve as an 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade transition program liaison to the Peck ACCESS partnership (including school administrators, college and community partners)
- Track student performance and engagement into 9<sup>th</sup> grade and beyond with data collection

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- Research successful 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade transition practices to support retention and achievement aims
- Travel at least once/month to Fellowship meetings, retreats, and training

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- An interest in and commitment to national and community service
- Experience working with youth
- The desire to work with diverse constituencies
- Flexibility and a sense of humor
- Ability to see the big picture
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Professional and mature
- Must be a US Resident, US National or Permanent Resident Alien
- Bilingual (Spanish/English) a plus

#### BENEFITS

For a one year full-time commitment and 1700 hours of AmeriCorps service Fellows receive:

A taxable living allowance of \$269/week ♦ Comprehensive health care benefits ♦

Excellent training opportunities ♦ FREE courses at Northeastern University in the College of Professional Studies ♦

Loan forbearance and a \$5,550 educational award

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Apply ASAP!** Send a letter of interest, resume, and contact information for three references, preferably electronically, as soon as possible to:

Megan Harding  
William R. Peck School  
1916 Northampton Street  
Holyoke, MA 01041

Phone: 413-534-2040

Fax: 413-532-8563

Email: [mharding@hps.holyoke.ma.us](mailto:mharding@hps.holyoke.ma.us)

<http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/peck/index.html>

#### MORE INFO

- Review of applications will begin on or about May 5, 2011 and will continue until the position is filled or June 17 at the latest
- Interviews will take place during May of 2011
- Hiring decisions will be made on or before June 17th, 2011
- Program start date is August 2011
- **Visit [www.masspromisefellows.org](http://www.masspromisefellows.org) for detailed program information**

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The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship is committed to providing equal opportunities. We serve and partner with diverse organizations, and are dedicated to non-discrimination. It is our policy to ensure that all individuals with whom we are in contact are treated without regard to age, color, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or expression, or veteran status. We require that all our partners make reasonable accommodations for any and all individuals with a permanent or temporary disability. We actively partner with organizations representing minority concerns and interests to build high-performing teams that mirror the communities we serve.

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