



Center for Landscape Design & Stewardship: “Growing Markets” Internship

Location: Butler Township ‘Human Nature’ Community Garden, Freedom Park, Drums PA; and the Downtown Hazleton Farmer’s Market (Saturdays), 20 W. Broad Street, Hazleton, PA.

Contact: Krista Schneider, President

Phone: 570-578-5903

Email: kschneider@DigCLDS.org

Website: <http://www.DigCLDS.org>

General Description & Background: The Center for Landscape Design & Stewardship (CLDS) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that was founded in 2008 for the purpose of promoting environmental and community sustainability through landscape-based education, demonstration, and public outreach.

In 2009, the CLDS partnered with Butler Township to establish the 1.3 acre ‘Human Nature’ Community Garden at Freedom Park in Drums, Pennsylvania. In addition to offering hands-on workshops and education programs, the CLDS manages 60 community garden plots that are rented by the public, as well as a children’s garden that is the focal point of our summer youth camp. With the help of volunteers, we are also in the process of installing four environmentally-friendly gardens for demonstration, inspiration, and horticultural study (rain, herb, pollinator, and perennial).

In 2011 we broke ground on our ½ acre Market Garden, which was planted and managed for the sale of non-certified organic produce, herbs, and cut flowers at the new Downtown Hazleton Farmers Market, which the CLDS helped to organize in partnership with the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce. In 2012 we plan to cultivate more of the Market Garden, offer a limited number of CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) subscriptions for produce delivery, and engage high school and college interns in our new “Growing Markets” initiative.

Internship Summary: The Growing Markets initiative is designed to provide interns with hands-on experience in planting and maintaining the market garden, preparing simple foods with produce grown, and marketing and selling their raw produce and valued-added foods at the Downtown Hazleton Farmer’s Market, and through a small number of garden share subscriptions that the interns will manage. .

Educational Opportunities: This is a fantastic opportunity for an aspiring small food-business or agricultural entrepreneur to not only learn the basics of bio-intensive garden operations, but also gain insight and experience in marketing organically and locally raised produce and prepared foods for retail sales. According to *Inc. The Magazine for Growing Companies*, “Organic and Locally Produced Foods” are recognized as one of the top ten sectors of the new “demand” economy that are expected to grow substantially over the next decade. (Hot Companies, Cool Markets, by Leigh Buchanan, *Inc.*, 11/10).

Interns will also receive safe food handling certification offered through the Penn State Cooperative Extension, as well as basic information on starting a small food products business. Working under the direction of CLDS Volunteers and Board Members, interns will also receive

instruction in how to prepare simple healthy foods (sauces, salsas, pestos, chutneys, sauces, specialty ethnic foods, seasonings, etc.) made from the produce and herbs grown in the garden. A commercially licensed kitchen with specified/supervised kitchen hours will be made available to the students for this purpose. Interns will also receive a small business development consultation session with the Wilkes University Small Business Development Center (SBDC). When the season ends, each intern will have acquired fundamental knowledge and skills that can serve as a springboard for future careers in organic farming, culinary arts, and the local food economy.

Internship Details: We have openings for 5-10 interns from April through September 2011. Interns will work under the direction of CLDS director and organic farmer Mark Hetman. Duties will include a variety of tasks involved with organic market garden operations, including but not limited to: seeding & transplanting, cultivation, fertilization, organic pest management, weed control, harvest, seed collection, food preparation, marketing, retail sales, and farmer's market operations. Based upon individual interest and ability, interns may also provide assistance and program support to the CLDS Garden Discovery Summer Camp and/or to the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce in organizing the Farmer's Market.

Stipend: This is an unpaid internship but an invaluable educational opportunity!

Qualifications: Ideal candidates are high school or college students (ages 16 and older) with an avid interest in the fields of agriculture, culinary arts, science, ecology, horticulture, nutrition or other related fields of study. Adults exploring the idea of starting a farm or small food business are also welcome if space allows. At a minimum, intern candidates should have an interest in local and organically raised food, a mature and responsible work ethic with strong organizational and communication skills, be in good health, have physical endurance, enjoy working outdoors, and be able to work independently as well as part of a group. Students must also be able to provide their own transportation to/from the garden, kitchen, and the Farmer's Market, the latter of which will take place Saturday mornings from 9am to 1pm, July 14th thru October 6th. It will be important for interns to conduct themselves in a mature, responsible, professional manner when representing the CLDS within the community. Parental involvement in this program is both welcome and encouraged.

Internship Structure: The total hours spent in the program per day and week vary with the season, but are expected to average 20 hours per week with longer hours possible in the and summer. The specific details of each individual's internship may vary to meet personal or academic needs and a weekly schedule will be developed for instruction, gardening, kitchen hours, and market operations once the program begins. A Learning Objectives Contract or equivalent contract required by an intern's academic program will be developed if needed.

To Apply: Contact Krista Schneider, CLDS President, at kschneider@DigCLDS.org, or 570-578-5903 for an application.