Michael Curtis

Soc 490 Internship

Dr. Sills

1/23/2015

Job Description

My goal is to obtain an internship with the Greensboro Human Relations Department. Today I had my interview with the director, Dr. Love Crossing, and coordinator, Mr. Alan Hunt. Both are UNCG alumni, and Dr. Crossing has taught several courses at the University. Throughout the interview process I got to learn more about what the Human Relations Department does, and although examples of day to day workload were not terribly specific, I gained a general understanding of their function.

The department is made up of eight individuals that handle four general categories of duties: managing volunteers, fair housing, community relations, and police community interaction. Both Dr. Crossing and Mr. Hunt emphasized that their jobs are incredibly dynamic and are focused on the planning and execution of projects. This means that some projects last a few days and others can last months. One of their main responsibilities is to coordinate all of the processes that go into these projects. I was curious as to what my day to day experience would be like with the internship and asked them directly, however their answer was vague because they said it depended on the type of project they would assign me. I was assured that my role as an intern would not be minimal and unimportant. They intend to assign me to a project based on the time of day, and days of the week I have available and said that I would probably be working out in the community in some manner. An emphasis was put on city council meetings, and working with the city commissioners which was a relief to me since I did spend time on the Jamestown Town Council as an appointed Youth Ambassador and I would not feel like I was thrust into a position that I know absolutely nothing about. Dr. Crossing and Mr. Hunt also said that I should be prepared to deal with emotionally taxing situations since their department handles cases and complaints about unequal treatment of individuals. I emphasized my ability to understand that everyone comes from different situations and has different life stories so I would try my best to deal with people who have experienced a perceived injustice in fair and caring manner. I was also informed that they would work with me on my schedule but that they would like to have me there for around twenty hours a week and I got the impression that have a lot to get done and could greatly use the extra help not one, but multiple interns could provide. Furthermore, I was led to believe that a lot of my work would be done with other interns and that we would be spending a lot of time together out in the community solving problems and reporting back to the department. I am both excited and nervous about this potential internship and at the very least I learned a great deal about the interview process I should expect from future employers.