Our Story
As one of Rice University's longest running K – 12 outreach programs, School Literacy and Culture (SLC) unites teachers around a single passion: a belief that all children deserve a high-quality literacy education that emphasizes listening, speaking, reading, writing, and reasoning. We draw upon a twenty-nine year commitment to creating research-into-practice programming that is respectful of the teachers, children, parents, and families with whom we work.

SLC is not a typical professional development program. We embrace Rice University's commitment to promoting “Unconventional Wisdom” by using young children's own dictated and dramatized stories as the foundation of reading and writing instruction. Because our specialized work in early childhood education emphasizes the teacher's role in promoting children's development across all educational domains, SLC uses a variety of interactive experiences to intentionally model with teachers the types of supportive relationships and 21st century approaches to learning that we ask them to use in working with children.

Our Interns
Interns are important members of our SLC team—so important, in fact, that summer interns often work their way into paid positions with our organization during the school year. Past interns have said that they appreciate opportunities to apply their coursework in the fields of psychology, cognitive sciences/neuroscience, sociology, education, PJHC, and other fields in meaningful ways.

This summer, SLC’s 2017 Shell Nonprofit Intern will utilize his or her time and talent to:

• Further the mission of SLC by creating a detailed report summarizing current research in early literacy development with an emphasis on children’s emerging oral language, vocabulary, and narrative development. Special attention will be directed to teaching strategies shown to advance the early literacy skills of young second language learners.
• Work directly with children during SLC’s Creative Writing Camp to gain firsthand experience in utilizing SLC’s theory-into-practice approach in working with teachers
• Serve as materials coordinator for SLC’s Creative Writing Camp
• Serve as a program coordinator for SLC’s Summer Institutes on Reading, Writing, and Cultural Conversations
• Serve as the Rice University campus liaison to participants utilizing dorm housing for the one-week institutes
• Work with social media, infographics, and video production as needed.
• Assist with various administrative duties and tasks as needed.
• Potentially develop additional projects based on student interests and organizational needs. Past intern projects have included grant writing, developing presentations, creating promotional materials, and more.

Project Outcomes
• The updated review of research in the field will be utilized by SLC staff in refining its theory-into-practice approach of working with early literacy teacher leaders. Direct application will be evidenced in professional learning community seminar content and teacher workshops serving roughly 1,000 early childhood teachers each year.
• Summaries of applicable early literacy research will be shared with the general community via SLC’s blog.
• Extrapolation activities for parents will be shared in English and Spanish via SLC’s parent resource page.

Qualifications
• **Education** – Rice University rising sophomores, juniors or seniors will be considered for this position. Preference will be given to students seeking longer term, part-time employment with School Literacy and Culture during the school year.
• **Experience** – A successful intern will exhibit
  - Self-motivation and a willingness to embrace challenge
  - Excellent written and oral communication skills
  - Ability to conceptualize and promote creative/innovative ideas
  - Attention to detail and organizational skills –
  - Working knowledge of word processing and data analysis programs –
  - Interest in conducting independent online research on a variety of topics
  - Previous experience working directly with preschool or elementary-aged students is preferred.
  - Evidence of prior leadership experience is strongly preferred.

Terms of employment
The School Literacy and Culture nonprofit intern will work 35 hours per week for approximately eight weeks with opportunities for time off and/or paid additional work time. The intern will preferably be available for paid orientations on Saturday, May 20 and Wednesday, May 31. School Literacy and Culture fully commits to any payments beyond the $2,500 stipend provided through the Shell Nonprofit Internship Program.

For more information, visit [http://www.literacy.rice.edu](http://www.literacy.rice.edu) or contact Emiy Merriweather at emilymerri@rice.edu.

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