Engagement Fellowship with Valley Scholars

The Valley Scholars program at James Madison University partners with seven school districts in the Shenandoah Valley to identify and provide access and opportunity for students who have the desire and potential to attend college but face barriers in pursuit of their goal. Valley Scholars provides academic and social supports to students and families beginning in 8th grade with the goal of preparing scholars to be admitted to a competitive college or university. The program is comprehensive, with weekly mentor meetings and programs, each designed to expose students to a culture of life-long learning. The JMU Year of Service Fellow will work with program staff to enhance existing programs through the expansion of service to new students while also working to identify critical needs leading to greater success and positive outcomes for students progressing to high school graduation.

Service Fellow Responsibilities
Service fellows are expected to contribute 20 hours per week to program needs. A year of service entails contributing to the success of programs, but also learning through experience the following critical components:

- Relationship building and communication with school partners, families and student participants.
- Event planning, preparation and execution.
- Mentoring of student scholars.
- Marketing and communication of program milestones through the use of both traditional and social media.
- Assisting with continued assessment of program components for efficacy and impact.
- Creation and organization of program materials and curriculum.
- Professional development and/or outreach activities designed to leverage resources or knowledge at the university or within communities.

This fellowship requires active participation in service cohort meetings, reflection exercises and reporting in coordination with other fellows placed throughout the university. Fellows may also be asked to contribute to divisional or university goals and initiatives related to education access, community engagement or other priorities.

Qualifications

- A positive attitude and demonstrated interest working in an environment promoting values of social and economic justice.
- An interest or desire to learn more about education access and affordability.
- Strong interpersonal skills related to both oral and written communication.
- A desire to research, create and implement learning strategies for middle and high school youth and disseminating best practices with community, university and school partners.
- An interest in organizational communication, focused on building relationships, partnerships and problem solving.
- Understanding of adolescent development.
- Proficiency with a variety of PC, Mac or cloud bases software applications for publishing, web design and social media communication.

Submit applications through JMU Joblink by April 22, 2016.