Yale University President’s Public Service Fellowship

- Organization: New Haven Urban Resources Initiative
- Full street address of organization: 301 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511
- Website: uri.yale.edu
- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow’s direct supervisor (the supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis): Chris Ozyck, Associate Director
- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor: (203)-627-0178, Christopher.Ozyck@yale.edu
- Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 28 and Friday, August 9, 2019): May 14 - Aug 10, 2019
- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: No, we will need to start as early as possible to get the students trained in time to coincide with the community’s need to start their summer plantings.
- Proposed work schedule (placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week): Tuesday – Saturday, flexible hours, 40 hours/week

Placement Description

- Organization description (mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.):

URI is a non-for-profit university partnership that transforms people and places through urban greening. URI hires six to seven community foresters for its Community Greenspace program each summer. Two positions are reserved for PPSF fellows. Through this program, URI works with 50 New Haven community groups to replant, restore, and reclaim the urban environment each summer. URI community foresters work in middle and low-income neighborhoods throughout the city in partnership with neighborhood residents, city officials, and non-profit agencies to revitalize New Haven communities by restoring neighborhood open spaces and streetscapes. URI foresters
receive training in urban forestry, project planning, site assessment, social forestry, and research techniques.

- **Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting (50 words or less. This will be used as your organization’s project description summary on the PPSF website, so be succinct):**

  The program’s goals are conducting environmental restoration, building community, and fostering stewardship and civic empowerment. URI fellows:
  - support 6 community groups doing environmental rehabilitation (tree planting, vacant lot restoration, and leaded soil remediation);
  - provide technical and material support to communities;
  - monitor improvements;
  - collaborate with city partners to achieve community goals.

- **Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (Suggested length: one to two pages.)**

  Community Greenspace is a city-wide environmental restoration program. The Greenspace program enables neighborhood organizations to undertake community-based, as well as private, tree planting, care and maintenance. Depending on community interests and applications to the program, projects include planting street trees, maintaining public parks, converting abandoned lots to "pocket" parks, as well as tree, bush and flower planting and soil lead abatement activities on private property.

New Haven, like most urban areas, has many assets. In every neighborhood there are residents who are committed to improving the quality of city life. URI community foresters, through the Community Greenspace Program, work with local residents with
the goals of conducting environmental restoration, building community, and fostering stewardship and civic empowerment.

The focus is on underserved communities. The interns often work with new Habitat for Humanity homeowners and Yale architecture homeowners and help them to integrate into the neighborhood through community greening. For example, the Truman Street community leader started this Greenspace group working in the vacant lot near her Yale architecture home. She has become a strong community leader and the space has become a beautiful gathering place in the Hill neighborhood.

URI foresters receive extensive training in urban forestry, project planning, site assessment, social forestry, and research techniques. In turn, URI community foresters provide both technical and material support to communities. Each forester works with up to seven community groups. Each community group sets environmental restoration goals at the beginning of the summer and works regularly (weekly, more or less) to reach the goals. The exact nature of the work will depend on the individual needs and opportunities of each neighborhood site. In general, community forestry interns will train community members in tree inventory, species choices, planting site selection, site preparation (including soil testing, erosion control measures, and enrichment through addition of compost), tree maintenance (watering, mulching, pruning, etc.), and planting methods. Training sessions will be conducted in small community workshops, as well as in individual or small group training activities.
URI foresters are responsible for maintaining and reporting data on community participation, plant materials used, survival statistics of trees planted the previous year, and lead abatement activities. Foresters work as a team (of approximately seven foresters) sharing tools, trucks, and other resources.

- List specific skills/experience required for the project:

The community forestry interns must have:
  - one or more of the following: education, experience, passion, and/or commitment to environmental management and commitment to bringing these skills to urban areas;
  - an ability to work with varied organizations and individuals; and
  - excellent communication and writing skills are required, as documentation is an integral component of this project.

- Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):

A valid driver’s license is required. Weekends for this internship are Sundays and Mondays. Interns must work Saturdays.

- Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your organization in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, describe any work that Yale students have done with your organization.

URI has been hiring Community Greenspace foresters in New Haven since the summer of 1995. These 160+ foresters have helped to plant 2,742 trees and revitalize and strengthen 303 communities in New Haven.
FOR MORE INFORMATION: We have many articles and reports in our office and on our website, which give more in-depth descriptions of our work. To learn more about the program, please visit our website’s Greenspace page: uri.yale.edu/programs/greenspace and call Chris at 203-432-6189 or e-mail him: christopher.ozyck@yale.edu.