

Good Schools for All, a program of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, is seeking exceptional candidates to fill multiple positions in its rapidly growing \$2.3 million a year not-for-profit organization. Offering no programs or services, Good Schools for All is a neutral independent convener. Its mission is to mobilize community to help Buffalo's children succeed academically. Since 2002, Good Schools' primary focus has been literacy, the foundation for academic success. Recognized nationally for its transformational *Read to Succeed Buffalo* literacy initiative, Good Schools is determined, with the right people, to make a difference for our children and their families.

Program Officer for Youth Engagement – Position Profile

This person will report to the Senior Program Officer and will be responsible for all activities designed to engage young people in reading.

In focus groups, kids told us that reading is boring and not relevant to their lives. They tell us it's not challenging or fun. Many are turned off to reading at the very same time employers are demanding a more highly literate work force. Without strong literacy skills, young people will not get through high school, go to college, or get a good job.

What would happen if kids learned reading, writing, comprehension and critical thinking by producing a documentary? Or a hip hop performance? Or by building a web site? Or by learning the mysteries of bugs by going into the field? Shhhhh, we won't tell them there's lots of literacy there, even if there is.

Responsibilities

- Develop and implement the strategies outlined in the *Read to Succeed Buffalo* citywide strategic plan for literacy related to youth and young adults.
- Ensure program components, particularly literacy program components, are aligned with the New York State Learning Standards (see www.nysed.gov).
- Engage and collaborate with literacy coalition partners in the planning and design of creative program models to engage youth and young adults in literacy activities.
- Ensure that the campaign's framework for quality is built into all aspects of program design, including quality standards, performance indicators, outcomes measures and data management.
- Develop program's estimated budget, identify potential funding sources, write grants to fund the programs, create work plans, oversee implementation and ensure results through continuous process and program improvement. ram improvement.

Qualifications

Experience

- At least five years of experience working directly and successfully with youth and young adults in youth engagement and leadership-building activities.
- At least three years of experience in program design, implementation, project management and outcomes measurement.
- Successful grant writing experience is a plus.

Skills

- High-energy, creative person with knowledge of youth culture, an understanding of the ‘youth voice,’ and the ability to build trust with the City of Buffalo’s youth.
- Comfortable with using web-based social networking sites and blogs.
- Knowledge of New York State Learning Standards for middle- and high-school children a plus.
- Ability to work independently and with community partners is necessary.
- Excellent literacy skills are expected.

Education

- A Bachelor’s degree (preferably a Masters degree) in fields such as the arts, creative studies, communications, education, community or youth development, or related field.

Personal Characteristics

This job requires a person who:

- Loves, respects and relates well to kids and young adults.
- Is creative and innovative.
- Can engage others with energy and enthusiasm.
- Understands and has personal experience with youth culture.
- Is collaborative. Can engage community or civic agencies toward common vision.

- Can engender trust and respect of others.
- Is willing to work hard, even if it means working extra hours sometimes.

Qualified candidates send a cover letter explaining your qualifications and a current resume to:

Helene H. Kramer, Executive Director
Good Schools for All
hkramer@goodschoolsforall.org

RESUMES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MAY 30, 2008

See the Read to Succeed Buffalo (www.readtosucceedbuffalo.org) or Good Schools for All (www.goodschoolsforall.org) web sites to learn more about who we are and what we're doing.