



HOUSTON CENTER *for* LITERACY
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Success Heats Up in the Summer – For Interns and Non-Profits

(Houston, Texas) Sept. 26, 2016 – School ended and summer arrived. For many students, summer represents downtime. However, for Noopur Parikh and Sam Stellpflug, this was a special summer as they were selected to serve as interns for the Houston Center for Literacy through the Shell Oil Non-Profit Internship Program.

This is the seventh year HCL has been part of the Shell Oil Non-Profit Internship Program. The

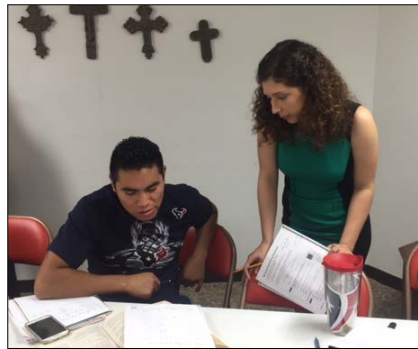


Samantha Stellpflug (center) helping deliver books to St. Austin Literacy Center for their ESL Library; a donation of over 500 books.

program matches college students with qualified agencies in meaningful positions that meet both the agencies' needs and the students' career goals. In addition to the work experience, Shell sponsors offer three networking events during the summer, enabling students from universities in Texas and across the country to learn more about the organization and to network with each other. The program introduces students to careers in nonprofit and highlights the importance of community service. HCL was selected based on its work in one of three key areas of social investment targeted by Shell: education, environment and community involvement.

Nonprofit organizations benefit in many ways from having interns. They can bring a new perspective and fresh ideas to organizational issues, and are good at challenging the status quo. Interns can be more tech-savvy and are able to help with social media in ways most organizations haven't even considered. They are eager to tackle meaningful projects

important to a nonprofit organization as they offer an extra set of hands to undertake tasks, thereby, freeing up staff to take on other high priority assignments. They can potentially become future



candidates for positions at your NPO or other similar

Samantha Stellpflug (pictured left) and Noopur Parikh (pictured right) helping students prepare for their GED test.

organizations. And finally and importantly, they become brand advocates for your institution to get the word out to a new cadre of potential volunteers, donors, and friends.

HCL's summer interns definitely provided all these benefits and more to our organization. Sam served as the HCL Shell intern, while Noopur served as HCL intern with the Development team. They both had the opportunity to work with top HCL leadership and staff on a variety of projects improving the literacy landscape in Houston. They developed social media strategies for fundraising, refined the in-house data management filing system, revised critical provider information, created an updated media contact list and crafted and designed a six-month social media calendar for the communications department.

Sam continuously demonstrated professionalism as she communicated with board members and worked on multiple projects. She was hands-on in her approach to fully understand the ins and outs of HCL. Noopur had a stellar ability to work as a project manager and showed exceptional creativity in many of the activities with which she was engaged.

HCL interns were amazingly productive and helpful this summer. They worked hard to help update the HCL website and also gained some classroom experience. They helped teach an ESL class at two locations and interacted very well with the adult learners. They also worked closely with the HCL's provider relations manager and helped with the AmeriCorps program orientation. These are just a few of the many projects tackled at HCL this summer.

Internships allow students to gain exposure to real world learning opportunities, develop new skills and apply talents to problem-solving in a workplace environment, while increasing their confidence and expanding their network of connections. Sam and Noopur clearly took advantage of their time with HCL to get the most out of their experiences. HCL will definitely miss their hard work and smiling face. Their deliberative efforts will not go unnoticed.

Even as they head back to school this fall where Noopur is working on a dual Bachelor's degree at the University of Houston in Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology and Sam is pursuing a degree in Math Education, (grades 9-12) at University of St. Thomas, both

interns have committed to return as future volunteers for HCL. Sam and Noopur are welcome back any time!



Samantha and Noopur (center) posing with HCL ESL and ABE students.

For more information about the event or Houston Center for Literacy, please call 713-640-8200 or visit our website at www.houliteracy.org.

About Houston Center for Literacy

Houston Center for Literacy, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is working to build a literate, prepared workforce by supporting literacy organizations and programs, engaging the entire community to join us in solving our city's low literacy problem, and connecting learners with the education they need to be prepared for the future.

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