Thomas Merton Center
5129 Penn Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
(412) 361-3022

Intern Job Description

With a 40+ year history of advocacy and leadership in social justice, the Thomas Merton Center is Pittsburgh’s première organization addressing issues of justice and peace. The purpose of the internship program of the Merton Center is to provide meaningful experience, education and leadership development opportunities to students interested in learning about social issues and public policies that impact the well-being of individuals and families locally, nationally and internationally. Each intern is assigned a mentor to guide them in work relevant to the particular issue(s) they named in the course of their application and the current needs of the Thomas Merton Center. Interns also have the option of choosing involvement in meetings, activities, events and logistics related to community organizing and/or nonprofit management. Realizing the great need for community engagement in shaping the local, state and national agenda, interns at the Thomas Merton Center offer their support for the mission by participation in sponsored planning meetings, events and day to day tasks and activities.

The internship is considered to be a collaboration between the student and the Merton Center in which each benefits from the other’s experience, skills and strengths with mutual accountability between the two. As such, the staff of the Merton Center is committed to the integrity of the program for the well-being, safety and quality of the experience for each intern who commits to our organization.

Internships are unpaid and they generally extend for one or two semesters or a summer, depending on the schedule of the applicant. For application, please see our web site at www.thomasmertoncenter.org. We strongly urge all interested to read our website before applying.

The Merton Center is currently recruiting 2-3 students in the following categories:

Social Policy; Social Problems; Other – Sexual Assault in the Military
The Thomas Merton Center - New Economy Campaign
Organizing Intern for Fossil Fuel Divestment and Worker’s Center

The Thomas Merton Center’s New Economy Campaign seeks a community organizing intern to assist with two key initiatives – our citywide fossil fuel divestment campaign and researching the feasibility of starting a worker’s center protecting the rights of low wage workers.

The Thomas Merton Center is asking the City of Pittsburgh to divest their holdings in fossil fuel companies, joining a growing number of universities, foundations, and faith based institutions.

Worker center’s across the nation support the rights of low wage workers through organizing, legal services, and know your rights training.

Tasks:

- Assist with research to support Fossil Fuel Divestment campaign strategy, including the power structure of decision makers and the strengths and weaknesses of similar campaigns in other cities.
- Assist with communications materials, events, and petitioning
- Research best practice models for worker centers, and assist in assessing what resources are needed to start a similar program at the Thomas Merton Center.
- Participate in meetings and events when possible

Social work, public policy, or urban studies majors preferred. Schedule and time commitment are flexible.