Potential Service Learning /Capstone Experience Opportunity

Organization name: No More Empty Pots

Organization website: http://nomoreemptypots.org/

Organization brief description:
No More Empty Pots is a grassroots nonprofit that connects individuals and groups to local food systems to improve self-sufficiency, regional food security, and economic resilience of urban and rural communities through advocacy and action.

No More Empty Pots’ vision is to support communities in becoming self-sufficient and food secure through collaboration and adhering to our core values: education, stewardship, and sustainability.

Current programming includes:
- *The Community Market Basket*, a community-supported agriculture program that makes local produce, eggs, cheese, and bread accessible to underserved communities
- *Project Localize*, an educational program that helps classrooms identify and promote sustainable economic, cultural, and social progress in their community
- *Community & School Gardens*, collaborations with local organizations to support garden spaces to provide fresh produce and training opportunities
- *Hands-on Nutrition Education and Cooking Demonstrations*, incorporating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) to students and families
- *No More Empty Cups*, a nonprofit community coffee shop and inclusive community engagement space

⇒ *Collaborative Community Centered Food Hub*, providing job training, workforce readiness, food waste reduction, health food access, income generation, and business development

Organization site contact:
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Description of identified needs and proposed activities:
No More Empty Pots is seeking a student(s) to evaluate and strengthen the new 15-week Culinary Workforce Development program that will be a part of their Collaborative Community Centered Food Hub. The first cohort of the Culinary Workforce Development program will begin May 1, 2017.

- Conduct a process evaluation of the first 15-week Culinary Workforce Development Program to garner more understanding of the referral and vetting process of prospective participants
- Conduct a summative evaluation of the first cohort of the Culinary Workforce Development Program
- Evaluate the Culinary Workforce Development Program in comparison with the LA Kitchen program, which served as the model for the Collaborative Community Centered Food Hub
- Assess the currently enrolled participants in the Culinary Workforce Development program to develop case management strategies to provide more comprehensive services and results
• Develop standard evaluation measures such as pre/post tests, interview questions and
guides, and evaluation procedures for various aspects of the Culinary Workforce
Development program.
• Evaluate the Culinary Workforce Development program curriculum for effectiveness and
participant understanding

**Description of possible Service Learning Activities:**

• Outreach with community organizations for referral and recruitment into the Culinary
Workforce Development Program
• Outreach with restaurants to develop a process for job placement for participants who
complete the Culinary Workforce Development Program
• Conduct literature review of culinary workforce development programs in underserved
populations
• Develop marketing and messaging for the Collaborative Community Centered Food Hub programs
• Assist with other programs at No More Empty Pots

**Timeframe of proposed activities to begin:**
Preferred Summer 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2018

**Benefit of proposed activities to community organization:**
The proposed activities will benefit No More Empty Pots by leveraging existing community
partnerships and generating a more robust, community-wide understanding of our programs,
especially the new Culinary Workforce Development Program. Evidence of success would
include a data-driven model of community engagement and community-based participatory
research. The long-term impact would support our core values of Education, Stewardship, and
Sustainability and develop best practices that lead to the self-sufficiency of the participant and an
economically resilient community.

**Benefit of proposed activities to the student:**
The student will be immersed in the intricacies of an emerging nonprofit while being able to
introduce their own voice into future resources and outreach for the organization. A student will
receive hands-on experience to demonstrate and apply their proficiency of public health
knowledge and skills to develop a data-driven engagement model for a community nonprofit.

**Skill set of students requested, including possible MPH concentration desired:**

- Apply appropriate research methodologies to conduct comprehensive program
evaluations
- Present an effective oral and written presentation to diverse audiences
- Experience working with vulnerable and diverse audiences
- Critically analyze and apply the qualitative and quantitative methods applied in public
  health research
- Interest in interdisciplinary work

Possible MPH Concentrations that would be a good fit for Public Health Administration