Worcester Education Collaborative
Woo-Labs Hanover Fellowship Academic Year 2023-2024

Planning to pursue a career in youth development or teaching?
Looking for hands-on experience coordinating dynamic Project-Based Learning activities?
Interested in helping an out-of-school time organization expand its capacity to serve youth?

Worcester Education Collaborative (WEC) seeks undergraduate students, graduate students, or recent graduates to apply for its Hanover Fellowship. Hanover Fellows serve at WEC’s partner youth-serving organizations to support program implementation and enhance program offerings. This position is ideal for those passionate about positive youth development and eager to expand their ability to facilitate meaningful, authentic learning experiences for young people under the mentorship of experienced out-of-school time programming professionals.

Woo-Labs
WEC runs “Woo-Labs,” a network of community-based partners advancing educational and racial equity by providing high-quality, culturally responsive, project-based learning opportunities for Worcester K-6 students. Woo-Labs reimagines education as an ecosystem that includes out-of-school learning, centers students’ lived experiences and agency, and actively works to dismantle bias and inequity.

Hanover Fellowship
Woo-Labs partner organizations host Hanover Fellows to help implement our 3 foundational strategies:
1. Providing student-centered, project-based learning (PBL) opportunities
2. Applying a common measurement framework to support program improvement
3. Promoting students’ social emotional skills

Fellows serve up to 200 hours over the course of the academic year. The majority of hours are spent directly at a partner site (see below) executing these strategies. In their remaining hours, Fellows engage in Woo-Labs’ “Community of Practice,” ongoing professional development with fellow Woo-Labs partners to expand their knowledge of youth development best practices. Topics include PBL and fostering trauma-sensitive environments. Fellows receive comprehensive pre-service training and ongoing WEC support.

This is both a Fellowship – a set of learning opportunities to promote growth – and a paid position. Fellows must be eager to commit to the responsibilities included here, especially PBL and professional development. This robust learning opportunity requires considerable independence and initiative.

Fellows’ schedules vary by partner site placement (see below). WEC seeks Fellows who are willing to make a commitment to serve their entire academic year (September – May). Fellows serve a minimum of 5 hours/week and may serve up to 8 hours/week depending on the partner site’s schedule. Successful eligible Fellows may have the opportunity to continue their experience during the summer.

Woo-Labs is committed to building a cohort of Hanover Fellows reflective of the city’s rich linguistic, racial, and ethnic identities and cultivating their skills and competencies to facilitate high-quality learning opportunities.

Responsibilities
● Engage directly with young people to build trusting, affirming relationships
● Help partner site develop and implement robust project-based learning activities
● Coordinate the collection of Woo-Labs measurement data, including student attendance, parent/guardian consent forms, student surveys, and staff surveys
● Serve as a Woo-Labs liaison to build partner site staff’s knowledge and capacity for Woo-Labs activities
● Support with site-specific parent engagement and student attendance promotion strategies
● Perform other site-specific responsibilities as needed

Required Skills
● Current undergraduate student, graduate student, or recent graduate
● Experienced with and/or passionate about positive youth development
• Interested in education and project-based learning
• Skilled at relationship building and fostering supportive learning environments
• Able to work with individuals with diverse learning styles and racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds
• Organized, detail-oriented, and effective time managers and communicators

Preferred Skills
• Prior experience with K-6 age group
• Familiarity with Worcester community
• Enrolled in a relevant field of study at their college or university
• Bilingualism a plus

Compensation
Fellows will earn $17.00 an hour and serve up to 200 hours for total compensation of $3,400. Note: Fellows must complete a site-specific background check.

To Apply
Please submit a cover letter and résumé to Chris Acone (cacone@wecollaborative.org). Please indicate in your cover letter if you have any preference on partner site placement (see below). Preference will be given to applications received by August 23; the final application deadline is September 1. If spots remain at that time, WEC may conduct a 2nd hiring cycle. Feel free to contact Chris with any questions.

_Worcester Education Collaborative (WEC) is an Equal Opportunity Employer with a commitment to diversity and inclusivity in the workplace. WEC is under the fiscal sponsorship of United Way of Central Massachusetts._

Partner Site Information
Woo-Labs will hire up to 11 Fellows, each of whom will serve at one of the following partner sites. Applicants will have the opportunity to express their placement preference during the application process:

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Mission/Goal</th>
<th>Program Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>African Community Education</strong></td>
<td>To assist African refugee and immigrant youth and families in achieving educational and social stability through access to academic support, leadership development, cultural expression, and community outreach in Worcester</td>
<td>Saturdays, 9-2:30 Oct. – June</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Guild of St. Agnes</strong></td>
<td>To provide families with quality, affordable early childhood education and school age programs in a safe, nurturing environment for children four weeks to twelve years</td>
<td>Weekday afternoons Sept. – June</td>
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<td><strong>Black Excellence Academy</strong></td>
<td>To sustain community, foster excellence and positive self-esteem in a culturally relevant learning environment, in order to accelerate academic performance while enriching knowledge and appreciation of Black History and Culture.</td>
<td>Weekday afternoons Sept. – June</td>
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<td><strong>Boys and Girls Club of Worcester</strong></td>
<td>To help youth, especially those who need us most, develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and community leaders, through caring professional staff who forge relationships with our youth members and influence their ability to succeed in life.</td>
<td>Weekday afternoons Sept. – June</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Broad Meadow Brook</strong></td>
<td>To help youth can tap into their natural curiosity and be themselves as they investigate different habitats, ecosystems, and wildlife species at our 430-acre sanctuary</td>
<td>One weekday TBD Oct. – May</td>
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<td><strong>Main IDEA Youth &amp; Arts</strong></td>
<td>To empower youth by providing quality accessible arts programs to under-resourced communities.</td>
<td>Two weekdays 2-4:30pm Oct. – May</td>
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<td><strong>Worcester Art Museum</strong></td>
<td>To engage students in traditional and novel media and art-making techniques to explore their own creative voice and foster 21st century skill-building</td>
<td>Saturdays, 10 – 3 Oct. – June</td>
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<td><strong>YMCA of Central MA</strong></td>
<td>To strengthen our communities and to develop the spirit, mind, and body of all persons, regardless of means, through activities guided by and based upon our core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility</td>
<td>Weekday afternoons Sept. – June</td>
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<td><strong>YWCA of Central MA</strong></td>
<td>To promote children’s success by providing a balance of academic support, arts and cultural enrichment, recreation, and nutrition</td>
<td>Weekday afternoons Sept. – June</td>
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