NOW HIRING: Science Communications workshop assistant

The GenOM/ALVA program is seeking (1) Science Communications workshop assistant for summer quarter. The ALVA program is comprised of 20 incoming UW freshmen and 6 rising high school seniors; all are conducting research in STEM fields over the summer. The majority of these students are from underrepresented and/or underserved backgrounds. The purpose of this position is to assist the GenOM Director in teaching the participants how to write a research paper, develop a research poster, and give a short talk.

The STEM topics will vary; some of the participants will be in biology-based labs, some in engineering, and some in computer science. There will be an emphasis on understanding the difference between science writing and expository writing, accuracy, consistency, learning about plagiarism, and learning the different components of a typical science paper (title, abstract, introduction, literature, methods, results, discussion, conclusion, references). This instruction will help students increase their skills in science communication across all STEM fields.

Position Dimension and Impact to the University:

- This position supports improved science communication skills for incoming freshmen who will ideally be eligible for various diversity and academic programs within STEM fields.
- This position will directly impact the GenOM/ALVA program’s mission to increase diversity, particularly to increase the numbers of underrepresented minority and women students graduating with STEM degrees.
- This position may also contribute to general student supervision during program activities, and/or contribute to additional STEM related workshops in other laboratory based classrooms and course work.

Duties & Responsibilities:

Science Communication Workshops – 25%

- The GenOM director and the workshop assistant will lead weekly workshops from mid-July through the third week in August. The participants will be writing one section/week throughout the summer, and are expected to have their research paper completed by August 14 and their poster no later than August 16.
- This position will require 2-4 hours of weekly instructional activities and an expected additional 3 hours weekly for preparation and evaluation.

Editing student papers/posters – 50%

- Both the GenOM director and the workshop assistant will work with the students 1:1 on editing their papers and posters.
- The students will be compiling their entire papers and working on their posters intensively during the first two weeks of August, so the workshop assistant must be available during this time to work evenings and weekends to ensure that the students meet their deadlines.

Oral presentations – 20%

- With the ALVA counselors, the workshop assistant will engage the students in practicing their oral presentations and give them constructive feedback on how to best express their ideas so that a general audience can understand their research.

Other – 5%

- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Required: At least junior standing in a STEM field.
- Preferred previous teaching experience, ideally at the freshman level and/or prior participation in GenOM/ALVA or NSF-REM.
- Experience with and understanding of the challenges faced by underrepresented minority and female students in STEM fields.

Compensation:

- Stipend of $1000