Paul Robeson Living-Learning Community Peer Mentor Job Description
Bishop Quad on College Avenue Campus 2016-2017

Paul Robeson Living-Learning Community (PR LLC) @ Bishop Quad
The Paul Robeson community was established in 1976 and is a symbol of acknowledgment of the late Paul Robeson, a celebrated African-American activist, scholar, artist, athlete, and Rutgers graduate. This community places special emphasis on aiding first-year students as they make the transition from high school to college. It encourages community interaction and involvement, scholarship, as well as self-growth. Community members stress cultural enrichment and awareness amongst themselves, other members of the residence hall and the Rutgers community. They work collaboratively with staff and faculty mentors towards academic achievement and excellence. The community strives to engender curiosity, interest and understanding of the history and origins of the African Diaspora and the relevance and importance of that understanding in day to day life. The Peer Mentor in this program enhances the undergraduate experience of the students by living in residence and serving as a mentor and leader of the community. Through culture-related programs and activities, and informal interactions, the Peer Mentor works to provide a unique living-learning experience for the residents.

Location of Community and Peer Mentor: Bishop Quad
Students and mentors will live on the College Avenue Campus, adjacent to downtown New Brunswick with theaters, restaurants, student-friendly shopping, and the NJ Transit train station for easy access to NYC and Philadelphia. The program is currently located in the heart of the College Avenue campus, in the scenic Bishop Quad area.

Peer Mentor will have the following primary functions:
- Meet individually with assigned mentees twice a semester (minimally) with the first meeting occurring within the first 3 weeks of the fall semester
- Promote and encourage a dynamic, positive and fun environment that promotes community
- Implement cultural programming (minimum of 4 a semester) that reflects the interests of the PR LLC residents and connects with the course(s) taken by PR students
- Promote cultural awareness and regularly facilitate discussion about issues affecting African-Americans
- Assist residents in becoming familiar with on-campus resources, such as clubs and organizations, as well as faculty and staff members who are willing to assist them
- Refer areas of concern to Residence Life staff regarding potential conflicts and problems amongst residents
- Ensure students understand their responsibilities as members of a living-learning community
- Collaborate with other LLCs within the building e.g. Latin Images, Asian American Identities and Images, French, and German
- Perform weekly social rounds to build and maintain relationships with residents
- Conduct weekly office hours
- Create and maintain community bulletin board
- Develop, market, and participate in a philanthropic project
- Assist the Residence Life LLC office with recruitment activities in the spring semester
Benefits of Becoming a Peer Mentor:
- A great leadership opportunity and resume builder!
- Meet new people and network with faculty and staff at Rutgers
- Share experiences and offer support to Rutgers students in the PR LLC
- Develop relationships with faculty members affiliated with the PR LLC
- Learn more about campus resources
- Gain program planning and community building skills

Compensation and Time Commitment:
- Stipend of $1000 per semester, total $2000 for the academic year
- The expectation is that the overall responsibilities will call on average approximately 5 hours per week of active engagement from the Peer Mentor, as well as the understanding that the in-resident component implies more on-going informal interactions

Conditions of Appointment:
- Peer Mentor will serve for one academic year, beginning April 2016 and ending May 2017
- Must be in good academic and judicial standing during the term of employment
- Mentor will be assigned a space in the Bishop Quad. **NOTE: You will be responsible for paying for your own housing.**
- Willingness to work with, promote, and attend events at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center that will be part of the LLC experience for the community members

Eligibility requirements:
- Be a full-time Rutgers University student
- Have sophomore standing by August 2016
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.7 and be in good academic, judicial standing
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills and self-motivated
- Preferred:
  - Prior enrollment in Byrne Seminar: Paul Robeson as a Global Citizen and/or Intro to Africana Studies
  - Africana Studies major/minor
  - Previous member of the Paul Robeson LLC

Application & Selection Process:
- **All applicants must apply for a lottery number between January 18 – January 26**
- A completed online application for this position includes an essay and resume, uploaded by January 4, 2016 at noon.
- Student will receive an email on or before Tuesday, January 12th if eligible for in-person interviews (individual and group). Students must sign up for an interview prior to January 13th at noon.
- Interview will be held either Tuesday, January 19th or Wednesday, January 20th in McCormick Hall
- Candidate notified by Friday, January 29th of hire
- Candidate must accept position by Monday, February 1st

Mandatory Training Sessions and Orientation:
- Peer mentor orientation and training will be held on April 15, May 12, and the week of August 29th, managing your summer commitments to end prior to the start of training.
- Mentor must also be available for student orientation on Friday, September 2, 2016.
- Meet with Residence Life Coordinator regularly, including a weekly 1:1 and staff meeting.
Essay Questions:
Please answer the following questions in one essay of 500 words or less. Attach answers in a Word document with your full name and the name of the LLC listed at the top of the essay document.

1. What personal characteristics and skills do you possess which would make you an effective Peer Mentor? Please explain and include any relevant experience.
2. Please share your programming ideas and enrichment activities for the community.