PSU Community Greenworks Capstone Partnership

Program Description
The Multnomah Youth Commission was founded by youth in 1996 to increase youth voice in government. The MYC has become a diverse group of youth organizers dedicated to equity and justice - representing youth who live, work, learn, pray or play in Multnomah County & Portland. As the official youth policy body for both the City & County, all MYC work is guided by Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth, the nation’s first bill of rights written by and for youth, created by the MYC in 2006. (For their work the MYC was highlighted in 2009 by the National League of Cities as a national innovation in youth civic engagement). The MYC has developed a community-organizing model that incorporates participatory action research, policy creation and advocacy, and youth/adult partnership as its foundational underpinnings. This model has successfully led to development of several projects that support education including the Youth Action Plan to End Violence, the Rob Ingram Youth Summit Against Violence, Youth Actions Councils for 8 of the County run school based health centers (for which MYC won the Public Health Heroes award) and the creation of YouthPass which provided free Trimet passes for all PPS high schoolers (this year, YouthPass will revamp to include youth from Parkrose and David Douglas school districts).

In 2006, the Youth Commission created the nation’s first Bill of Rights written by and for youth, which was then adopted as guiding policy by Multnomah County and the City of Portland. In “Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth” we created an entire section on the need for access to high quality, relevant education for all youth in our community. We also identified transportation as one of the most critical barriers youth face in accessing the other rights asserted in the Bill (recreation, employment, caring adults, health, etc).

Multnomah Youth Commission can engage three to six Portland State University Community Greenworks Capstone students to support the youth in their work. This may include research grant-opportunities for youth-led projects, supporting the Sustainability Committee advance their transportation justice goals, or strengthening social media communication pieces of the commission. Capstone students will also get the opportunity to work closely with youth to determine a project of high interest to both students and youth commissioners.

Contact Information
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Details
Program dates and times: 10 am – 4 pm Mon/Wed/ Thursday, June 22 through Aug 14
*Optional: additional dates for support Aug 18-20 – not required.*
PREFERRED Capstone student days/times: Wed/ Thursdays
Location: 10317 E. Burnside St., Portland, OR. 97216