



Half-time  
Sustainability Education  
Programming Graduate  
Assistant



**Department:** Parks, Conservation, and Recreational Therapy Department

**Supervisor:** Samantha Laurence, Manager of The Macoskey Center

**Position:** Half-time Sustainability Education Programming Graduate Assistant, Summer 2020

**Deadline to Apply:** Until Filled

**Start Date:** Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (negotiable)

**End Date:** Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 (negotiable) - with potential for continuation in position for Fall 2020 & Spring 2021

***\*Please note: If SRU is not open for in-person work this summer or for this negotiable start date, there is a possibility of remote work.***

**How to Apply:** Please submit the following materials to [samantha.laurence@sru.edu](mailto:samantha.laurence@sru.edu):

- SRU GA Employment Application found here:  
<https://www.sru.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-assistantships>
- Cover Letter
- Resume

**Position Description:**

The Robert A Macoskey Center is Slippery Rock University's campus hub for sustainability and environmental education. We are seeking an active and enthusiastic graduate student to join our leadership team to assist in developing and delivering high quality and impactful sustainability education programming. The property features an 83-acre forested landscape with hiking trails, a permaculture garden demonstration site, an ecotherapy garden, chickens, a LEED-certified house with classroom and office space, and much more. We aim to create accessible and equitable opportunities for SRU students and community members to benefit from and learn about all that the site has to offer. We are seeking a highly motivated student with a positive attitude and teachable spirit who can make strong connections between the mission and scope of the Macoskey Center and their chosen field of study.

**Mission/Vision of The Macoskey Center:**

The Macoskey Center integrates campus and community resources to inspire and create an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable and just future. The MC achieves this vision through mutually beneficial partnerships with the broader community, hands-on education for the whole person, and interdisciplinary research that integrates academic and community-based knowledge.

### **Job Functions/Responsibilities:**

- Create, plan and teach education programs and presentations on sustainability, gardening, and the environment for both SRU and community groups following best practices in Environmental Education/Sustainability Education
- Assist with program assessment and evaluation
- Work with the current Sustainability Education Programming Graduate Assistant to learn programming processes, skills, knowledge, and best practices specific to The Macoskey Center and SRU
- Assist in recruiting, training, supervising and scheduling student programming staff and volunteers
- Marketing and public relations for special events and programs, including social media and responding to e-mail
- Set up and tear down classrooms for programs
- Regularly attend, manage, and provide regular programming for the off-campus Macoskey Center farm stand at the Slippery Rock Farmer's Market (Saturday mornings)
- Provide excellent customer service and public relations with visitors to The Macoskey Center and The Macoskey Center farm stand
- Begin pre-planning for Fall 2020 & Spring 2021 Sustainability Education programs

### **Requirements:**

- Clear background check from SRU Payroll System **BEFORE** start date
- Must meet eligibility standards of the graduate school including unconditional acceptance into a graduate program and a class load of 6 semester hours of graduate coursework
- Experience and/or pursuing a graduate degree in a field related to environmental education, sustainability, and/or education
- Experience with lesson planning and teaching in informal and/or formal settings
- Availability on evenings and weekends, especially for Saturday Slippery Rock Farmer's Market
- Flexibility with scheduling and hours due to programming demands
- Comfortable with public speaking and working with groups of all ages and sizes
- Seeks tangible opportunities to connect the responsibilities of this position to coursework requirements in the student's chosen field of study
- Arrives to work in a timely manner exhibiting professionalism, a positive attitude, flexibility, an ability to adapt to new challenges, strong interpersonal skills, and a desire to learn
- Committed to and passionate about the Mission/Vision of the MC

### **Desired Qualifications**

- Willingness to complete a graduate level Environmental Education course
- Knowledge of sustainable practices, gardening, agroforestry, and ecology
- Highly organized with attention to detail
- Ability to work autonomously or as a part of a collaborative team
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Professional work ethic and teachable spirit
- Experience supervising others
- Valid Driver's License

### **Student Outcomes:**

- Completion of National Association of Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide workshop and certification exam
- Gain experience in sustainability education/environmental education program development and evaluation
- Gain experience with cross-disciplinary sustainability education in an institution of higher learning
- Gain experience conducting program evaluation research
- Gain experience working collaboratively with undergraduate students, SRU faculty and staff, and community members.
- Develop skills in visitor services and management

### **Benefits:**

- Stipend of \$762 for Summer semester
- Tuition coverage for 6 credits
- Typical graduate assistantship provides pay for ~7 hours/week at ~7.62/hr. However, The Macoskey Center will supplement assistantship with additional 30 hours/week at \$11/hr for Summer semester
- A share of fresh, organically-grown produce from the Learning Garden during position duration
- Allowance of up to 10 days unpaid vacation time
- Various professional development opportunities
- One-on-one mentorship with Macoskey Center Manager

### **Appropriate SRU Majors:**

- All majors welcome to apply

**Questions?** Please contact the Samantha (Sami) Laurence at (724) 974-0308 or [samantha.laurence@sru.edu](mailto:samantha.laurence@sru.edu)

**Learn more about us here:** <https://www.facebook.com/MacoskeyCenter/>