



Princeton  
Internships in  
Civic  
Service

## **PICS 2010 Internship Description**

**Organization Name:** North Star Academy

**Internship Location:** 10 Washington Place, Newark, New Jersey 07102

**Required Dates:** Yes  No  If yes, internship must include the period: **June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010** through **August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010** (Please Note: Ideally, all interns would start on the same date in early June 2010).

**Housing Will Be Available to Intern:** Yes  No

**Expected working schedule for this internship:**

Start Time:**8:00am** End Time:**4:00pm**

Lunch break: 45 minutes (duration) (specific time, if applicable) The lunch period would fall between 11:00am and 12:45pm, depending on the individual intern's schedule of duties, meetings, etc.

**Additional Information**, if necessary:

At least two positions available.

## **Organization Description**

*Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size etc. Please also explain the benefit that will be derived by your organization by sponsoring a Princeton intern.*

### ***BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF NORTH STAR ACADEMY***

One of the greatest inequities in modern America has been coined "The Achievement Gap:" one's success in life (however defined) is largely determined by socio-economic and ethnic factors. Newark is no exception to this rule. The second poorest city in the United States, Newark's children are less likely to reach adulthood than anywhere in the state, and only 26% of those who graduate from high school plan on attending four-year colleges.

NORTH STAR ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF NEWARK was founded in 1997 to challenge this inequity and provide an alternative to the mostly failing urban public schools. Without "creaming" the top students like many successful selective schools and foundations (North Star students are admitted through a random lottery), North Star has all but eliminated the achievement gap between low-income African-American students and their peers

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nationwide (see enclosed school profiles). Serving K-1, & 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades, 100% of North Star's first three graduating class are currently attending college.

North Star, seen as a part of a new paradigm of school innovation, has welcomed in excess of 2,500 visitors over its first 10 years. In the last year alone, the school received educational leaders from all corners of the globe: Australia, England, Thailand, New Zealand, Japan, and Mexico. As the school looks to the future, it hopes to solidify and replicate its achievements. A second middle school opened in 2005 and the first North Star elementary school opened in the Fall of 2007, which now serves K-1. North Star leaders are collaborating with other forward-thinking organizations to improve urban education across the country.

### **NORTH STAR ACADEMY'S MISSION IS . . .**

To serve Newark children by building an uncommon school where students partake in a rigorous, 11-month, extended day, academic program that gives them the means to beat the odds in school and life.

To shape an intimate, supportive, engaging school community – where classes are small and personalized; where parents are partners; where teachers teach with passion and commitment; and where all the adults model – and all the students develop and live – the values of caring, respect, honesty, justice, and self-discipline.

To generate for students a transforming experience at an age when they are forging their very identities and lifetime aspirations; and to cultivate in them the belief that they are the masters of their own destinies: each one worthy of greatness and goodness, each one capable of – and responsible for – serving the community and the world around them.

### **SCHOOL SNAPSHOT:**

<b>Grades served:</b>	K-1, 5-12
<b>Student population:</b>	763 (approximately 40 students per grade level, 20 per class)
<b>Student demographics:</b>	85% Free/reduced lunch 100% of color (85% African-American, 15% Latino) 90% first-generation college applicants
<b>Type of school:</b>	Charter school (public school given more freedom to manage itself while also being held more accountable for its results)
<b>School day:</b>	8:00 am – 4:00 pm (1 ½ hours longer than a traditional public school)
<b>School year:</b>	<b>11 months (open 20 days longer than most public schools)</b>

## **Internship Description**

*Describe in detail the work or project will do; please be as specific as possible. Please also explain the benefit that a student will obtain by interning with your organization.*

### **GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:**

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In general, a Princeton Class of '69 student intern would have the opportunity to participate in North Star's mission, helping the school design systems and strategies that can build upon the school's success and contribute to creating new North Star schools in the future. North Star Academy seeks to tap into the talent of the particular intern who comes to work at the school. In collaboration with the intern, North Star would create a job description that would best suit both the school and the intern's talents. Some of the major projects scheduled for the summer of 2010 are listed below. A project intern would be assigned to one or more of these projects depending on their interest and capability—the projects could be from multiple categories:

### **FOR INTERNS INTERESTED IN LITERACY (ENGLISH/HISTORY):**

- Lead a Summer School English remedial class for a small group of struggling high school students, focusing on persuasive writing and critical reading skills
- Participate in the development of North Star's elementary school by collecting and designing instructional materials appropriate for kindergarten, first grade and second grade
- Participate in the collection of authentic reading texts/novels and leveling them (determining their difficulty level) so that teachers can more easily tailor reading instruction to the individual strengths of each student
- Work with individual students in preparation for their Final Performance Tasks in June (sample 7<sup>th</sup> grade task: 5 minute presentation to a panel answering the question, "Was the American Revolution justified?")

### **FOR INTERNS INTERESTED IN MATH/SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY:**

- Lead a Summer School Math remedial class for a small group of struggling high school students in Algebra, Geometry or Pre-Calculus
- Re-design the school website ([www.northstaracademy.org](http://www.northstaracademy.org)), adding more visual images, interactivity, and school accomplishments
- Create college-level lab experiments in conjunction with the middle school and high school science teachers, collecting and organizing all lab materials and accompanying student guides/worksheets/lab reports
- Design demanding Math & Science assessments in grades 5-12 that closely mirror the school's curriculum and prepare students for taking A.P. Calculus as seniors
- Work with individual students in preparation for their Final Performance Tasks in June (sample 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math task: measure a new classroom to determine amount and cost of paint/carpet needed)

### **FOR INTERNS INTERESTED IN LEADERSHIP/SCHOOL CULTURE/NEW SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT:**

- Participate in the enhancement of North Star's Instructional Guidelines: a detailed guide to every component of a high-achieving classroom environment (e.g., classroom procedures, student motivation, pedagogy, assessment, etc.)
- Participate in the creation and enhancement of North Star's Operational Guidelines: a thorough description of how to build a strong school environment outside of classroom pedagogy (e.g., fundraising, governance, technology, etc.)

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- Contribute to the writing of the year-end Annual Report: learning how to present data effectively and write persuasively for nationwide audience

### WORK FOR ALL INTERNS:

- Participate in the daily projects/assignments that help North Star function (e.g., scheduling panelists for Final Performance Tasks, collecting data for year-end evaluation, etc.)

## Intern Qualifications

*Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern.*

North Star welcomes interns who display the following qualities:

1. **Initiative:** North Star looks for faculty/staff members who are self-starters that incessantly look for ways to contribute to the school. Princeton Class of '69 interns must be willing to take an idea and develop it to its fullest potential, even going beyond the original proposal. They will fully invest themselves in the school, doing whatever it takes to complete projects and always looking for additional ways to improve the school.
2. **Unwavering belief in every child:** North Star adamantly rejects the belief that only certain students are born with the necessary intelligence to succeed in college and beyond. Princeton Class of '69 interns commit themselves to working with every child in the building, designing projects so that even the lowest skilled child can achieve greatness.
3. **Team player:** Princeton Class of '69 interns are expected to work in conjunction with all members of the North Star community. As such, they will be treated as full members of the staff: attending faculty meetings, participating in professional development, and adhering to the same standards as all faculty members.
4. **Strong work ethic:** North Star staff members distinguish themselves by going above and beyond the ordinary to reach every child in the school. Princeton Class of '69 interns will be expected to work as professionals—working with internal motivation and passion/commitment that leads them to put in the time that is necessary to fulfill their responsibilities

**Work Period:** Early June – Early August (flexible start/end date depending on intern's availability)  
**Daily Work Schedule:** @ 8:00 – 4:00 pm (flexible for interns who want to start earlier or stay later)  
**Lunch Break:** Flexible—at the intern's discretion

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