On Track OHSU! Science Outreach Evaluation Support

Science Outreach Evaluation Overview

STEM outreach programs are often hard to measure – how do you know if a program is meeting its objectives or increasing students’ interest in the sciences? On Track OHSU! is a science outreach program for students who are traditionally underrepresented in the science from grades 6 – 12, and beyond. The program is based on science education literature and has an array of qualitative and quantitative analysis methods. In this role, you would assist the On Track evaluator with the ongoing analysis of program data.

Objectives

• On Track evaluation is looking for candidates who have some comfort cleaning and analyzing data and are looking for more experience working with quantitative and/or qualitative education data.
• Students/Postdocs will learn about evaluation methods for education programs
• Students/Postdocs will gain experience using a validated observation framework, and have opportunities to choose aspects of the evaluation process most interesting to them.
• Students will learn to work collaboratively with program and evaluation staff

Required Skills

• Intermediate skill level with Microsoft Excel and/or R statistical programming language
• Experience working with data sets
• Interest in programs working within an equity focus
• Ability to complete assignments on deadline

Benefits for the Student/Postdoc

• Learn about the field of program evaluation, and what an evaluation of a program like On Track looks like in action
• Gain training and experience in the collection, management and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative student data
• Gain experience collaborating with evaluators
• Assist in production of an end of year data report
• Depending on student interest and skills, additional training and experience could include experience using a validated observation framework, qualitative analysis software, R code creation, and/or REDCap database management
• Possible opportunity to help with a publication of On Track’s evaluation methodology in an academic journal

Project Personnel

• Student/Postdoc Supervisor: Lindsey Smith, Senior Research Assistant at the OHSU Evaluation Core
• Project Stakeholder: Katie Lenahan, Director of On Track OHSU!
Potential Projects

• Data management
  o Management of a dataset of student attendance and survey responses
  o Matching student responses (by hand and/or R code)
  o Maintaining clean dataset using REDCap
  o Develop protocol for data and results sharing with partners

• Data Analysis
  o Help with analysis of survey data as intern is able
  o Write R code to be used on an ongoing basis for survey analysis

• Qualitative coding
  o Uploading open-ended questions into Dedoose (a cloud based qualitative coding program)
  o Helping to code responses
  o Improving coding schema

• Observations
  o Training in how to use a validated observation framework for Out of School STEM programming
  o Experience using observation framework and establishing inter-rater reliability

• Data presentation
  o Design new data visualizations of program results
  o Work to ensure results can easily be shared with and understood by all program stakeholders including funders and community partners

Application Requirements

• Letter of intent, outlining interest in the internship, qualifications and preliminary goals.
• Letter from applicant’s PI indicating their support, acknowledging that the student fits the necessary requirements and can devote dedicated time to the practicum.
• Resume or CV

Practicum Details

• The practicum will last 12 months.
• One trainee will be chosen each academic year.

Practicum Timeline

• Practicums will be announced July 2017 with an application deadline of July 31st.
• All application materials are to be emailed to Jackie Wirz (wirzj@ohsu.edu)
• Lindsey Smith and Katie Lenahan will review applicants. Applicants will be notified by August 15th.
• Students/Postdocs will begin September 1st
• Successfully matched trainees and Lindsey Smith will work collaboratively to onboard and create calendar, which will include clear assignments and deadlines
• Students/Postdocs will submit quarterly project updates, reporting on overall progress and any changes to the project.
• The practicum will conclude exactly 12 months after the start date.
• The student/postdoc will work with their practicum supervisor to create a final portfolio, consisting of a summary of work.
• Following review of the portfolio, Lindsey Smith and Katie Lenahan will issue a statement of completion and a letter of recommendation for the trainee.