

## Job Posting: Director of Community Engagement

St. Stephen's University seeks an enthusiastic associate professor with experience in and a passion for community development in Atlantic Canada to direct and manage its new Community Engagement certificate program. This full-time position will consist of a half-time teaching position, and a half-time organizational logistics position designed to oversee the program.

Historically, our focus has been the liberal arts, and six terms of academic study have been complemented by two terms abroad, in which students have travelled with faculty and staff, explored cultures and places, met new people, and developed new understandings and competencies. Now, we are adding a new and important dimension to our life together as a university: a more deliberate engagement with and appreciation of our surrounding community.

### **Program Description**

From a new first-year course, to internships and experiential education opportunities, to expanded course offerings in community engagement in 2021, we will take more notice of what is unique in NB, and develop an academic program that will equip students to study the people, opportunities and challenges here in southern New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada. Our intention is that students will be able to put new and applicable ideas to work here, and in their own regions, with better understanding of the historical patterns, stories, social demographics, resources, and environments that make our communities what they are.

We believe that the world's problems can't be fixed through book learning alone. But thoughtful academic study can be paired with engaging our communities: through partnerships with community organizations, through volunteer opportunities, through work on community projects, through applying research to solve community problems, through connecting with community leaders, through mentorships with activists, and through listening to local people talk about their needs and desires, our students can discover new opportunities, and find new ways to use their education to make our communities healthier, more inclusive, and stronger. We want our students to be citizens of the world and citizens of the neighbourhood, and to bring their passion, their energy, their curiosity, and their skills to help us all face the future, together.

### **Position Summary**

Reporting directly to the President and Chief Academic Officer, the Director of Community Engagement will help students develop a keen awareness of the required skills in education, political and social activism, and regional history and economics, in order to contribute

meaningfully to community change. These topics will be explored through the curriculum taught in the courses designed specifically for this program, as well as outside the classroom in strategic local internship and volunteer placements. The Director of Community Engagement will identify relevant local partnership opportunities for these internship positions, and will oversee the students' designation and work within these positions. This position will also include support of the roll out of the University's new Explore program, which has been designed to be a cornerstone of the Community Engagement program, and will offer students travel/study opportunities within the Atlantic provinces.

### **Responsibilities**

- Develop and maintain an excellent understanding of the University's mission, and direct the Community Engagement program in alignment with this mission
- Develop and teach the core course designed for this program (CE1000/4000), and help coordinate team-taught courses which focus on: identity, personal awareness, social context of region, history, culture, and story in Atlantic Canada, and systemic forces that favour some groups over others, to help students develop an understanding of the complexity and collaborative nature of social change
- Oversee the launch of Explore21, the pilot semester of the University's newly designed cohort program, including coordinating and co-teaching the above cross-listed courses
- Teach and facilitate the teaching of other courses in community engagement through focussing on theories of how healthy communities function, identification of community issues, introduction to research methods, including a practical project related to the student's field of major
- Relying on one's own experience in and passion for community engagement, develop meaningful connections with local partners to the University for placing students with their preferred group or organization, as well as establishing relationships with regional figures for guest teaching opportunities

### **Requirements**

- Completion of a postgraduate degree in Community Development, Sociology, Public Administration, or a related field, and a minimum of 5 years' teaching experience in that field
- Experience in organizing or contributing to social change efforts in one's own community
- Experience studying and facilitating education in community engagement; this being based in Atlantic Canada would be considered an asset

- Excellent communication skills in writing and presenting
- Excellent organizational skills, and demonstrated ability to manage logistical details with precision and efficiency
- Enthusiasm for the University's mission and programs and ability to elicit genuine enthusiasm from others
- Pro-active ability to work independently and take initiative in a team environment where flexibility and multitasking are often essential

### **Working Environment**

The successful candidate can expect:

- An office on-campus, with the option of performing some work from home
- A fast-paced, nonprofit culture
- A small and mighty team of coworkers. Due to the boutique size of the University, most positions are often wide in scope, which promotes more cross-department collaborations than are often possible in larger institutions.
- An inclusive and welcoming environment to employees of all genders, sexual orientations, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, backgrounds, and physical abilities.
- Some work on evenings and weekends, as required
- Some local and domestic travel, as required

Start Date: May, 2021

Compensation: \$40K-45K per annum, commensurate with the candidate's qualifications and experience

This is an evergreen position; we will keep this position posted until it has been filled. While we appreciate the interest of all applicants, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.