

Draft 2/4/2020

Summer 2020

June 1-July 31, 2020

Community Engagement Intern

The mission of The Delta Center is to promote greater understanding of Mississippi Delta culture and history and its significance to the world through education, partnerships, and community engagement.

The Delta Center for Culture and Learning is a “Center of Excellence” at Delta State University. Delta State University is one of the eight universities in Mississippi governed by the Institutions of Higher Learning. The Delta Center is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on the humanities and social sciences as they relate to the Delta.

The Delta Center advances Delta State University’s participation in promoting and celebrating the unique heritage of the Delta while also addressing the longstanding social, economic, and cultural challenges that inhibit regional advancement. The Delta Center fulfills this role by:

- Serving as management entity for the [Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area](#), a cultural heritage and economic development partnership between the people of the Mississippi Delta and the [National Park Service](#);
- Housing the [International Delta Blues Project](#), which comprises the International Conference on the Blues, a Blues Studies program, and a Blues Leadership Incubator promoting economic development and entrepreneurship related to Blues tourism and the creative economy;
- Hosting [“The Most Southern Place on Earth: Music, Culture and History of the Mississippi Delta,”](#) a Landmarks of American History and Culture workshop funded by the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) which brings K-12 educators to the Delta for a week-long educational and cultural immersion experience; and
- Working throughout the Delta region and nationally with cultural, educational and tourism organizations, local, state and federal agencies, and visiting college classes and groups from around the country and the world, providing information, expertise, and experiential learning and partnership development opportunities.

Over the years, The Delta Center has been instrumental in helping the Robertson Scholars program establish and maintain a presence in the Mississippi Delta. The Delta Center has helped create all Mississippi Delta-based internships for Robertson Scholars and serves as a liaison between the Robertson Program and Delta State University. They provide learning experiences for the Scholars during the summer (e.g., tours, trips, receptions) and provide intellectual leadership for the Community Summer that has served as a model for other sites.

Overview of General Internship Responsibilities

In this position, you will have significant responsibility and will gain skills useful for later work and school experiences, and you will learn a great deal about (and contribute to) a unique institution. You will also

learn about the Delta's rich cultural heritage in ways that would not be possible in traditional service placements.

For 2020, Interns will support a wide variety of Delta Center activities reflecting the increasingly important and visible role of this organization within a regional, national, and international context. Although the signature workshop will not be offered in Summer 2020, Interns will contribute to the major commitments outlined above, as well as new initiatives. Interns will perform the following general types of tasks across a range of projects:

- **Interns work with The Delta Center staff to prepare for special events currently in the planning stages.** This may involve creating and organizing participant binders, reading and familiarizing themselves with relevant materials, managing daily snack and beverage containers for stationary and mobile classrooms (i.e., chartered bus), and other related educational, clerical, and physical activities.
- **In collaboration with Delta Center staff, interns help to document projects and events** using ethnographic field narratives, photography, and videography methods. Examples of portfolios and documentary videos created by past Robertson Scholar interns can be found [here](#).
- **Under the direction of photographer/journalist Will Jacks, interns will create an interactive, web-based multimedia "Virtual Resource Center"** for the [MS Delta National Heritage Area](#).
- **Interns will assist with developing and writing social media posts and blogs** for The Delta Center website.
- As needed, **Interns will conduct research, prepare written materials, and perform administrative tasks** (e.g., updating database) for specific projects.

Interns are expected to work at The Delta Center 8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday through Thursday. During special events, hours expand to 7:00 am-7:00 pm or longer.

Desired Attributes and Skills

- Strong writing and critical thinking skills.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills.
- Creative, energetic, and enthusiastic.
- Works well independently and takes initiative.
- Aptitude and willingness to quickly learn and master use of desktop publishing and documentary applications including In Design and Adobe Creative Cloud, Premier, and Lightroom.
- Documentary experience is a "plus" but not a must. Interns may bring a camera for documentary work if you have one; however, bringing a camera is not required. MAC laptops/equipment are provided.
- Working knowledge of Facebook, blog software (e.g., Wordpress), and other social media tools preferred.
- Willingness to work long hours, particularly during special events. These days generally last 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, possibly longer on certain days.

Interested Robertson Scholars should submit a resume and letter of interest to Vicki Stocking (stocking@robertsonscholars.org) by February 21, 2020.