



Delta Center for
Culture & Learning

About The Delta Center for Culture and Learning

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 [nationally recognized, award-winning](#) “Center of Excellence” at Delta State University. Delta State University is one 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. To learn more, visit <http://deltacenterdsu.com/>. To meet the staff of The Delta Center, visit <http://deltacenterdsu.com/the-staff/>.

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 has fulfilled this role since its inception in the year 2000 and continues to do so by:

Serving as management entity for the Congressionally-designated [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;

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 to create all Mississippi Delta-based internships for Robertson Scholars and serves as a liaison between our program and Delta State University. They provide learning experiences for scholars during the summer (e.g., tours, trips, receptions) and provide an intellectual framework for the Community Summer that is generally not available at other locations.

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.

This is an **eight week internship (June and July) with two intense weeks working directly with the National Endowment for the Humanities “Most Southern Place on Earth” workshop**. These

workshops attract participants from across the US and provide immersive experiential learning opportunities about the Mississippi Delta's culture, history, and heritage. **Summer 2019 workshops take place Sunday, June 16 – Saturday, June 22nd and Sunday, July 7 – Saturday, July 14.**

Interns work with The Delta Center staff to prepare for the NEH workshops. This involves creating and organizing workshop participant binders, reading and familiarizing themselves with workshop 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 every aspect of the NEH workshops using ethnographic field narratives, photography, and videography methods.

Examples of workshop portfolios and documentary videos created by past Robertson Scholar interns can be found at <http://deltacenterforcultureandlearning.com/neh-workshop/photos-portfolios/>. While documentary videos are a key aspect of documenting the workshops, **the portfolios are a primary deliverable for interns. Portfolios are expected to be completed and uploaded to the workshop website before interns leave The Delta Center at the end of July.**

Interns also may assist with developing and writing social media posts (primarily Facebook) and blogs for the NEH workshop component of The Delta Center website.

Interns also may assist with the International Conference on the Blues that takes place at Delta State University during the fall semester, as well as initiatives related to the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area.

Interns are expected to work at The Delta Center 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday. During the NEH workshops, hours expand to 7:00am – 7:00pm, sometimes longer on certain days. Interns also are expected to work on the day the workshops begin (Sunday, June 17 and Sunday, July 8) and end (Saturday, June 23 and Saturday, July 14).

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 the NEH workshop. Workshop days generally last 7:00am to 7:00pm, possibly longer on certain days.