Become a Discovery Instructor!

What is Discovery?
The Mary and Frances Youth Center (MFYC) on the VCU campus opened its doors in 2007 and provides programming and training to enhance the lives of youth in the Richmond metro area. One of these programs is Discovery, a summer program designed to attract a diverse middle school audience (rising 6th-8th grade) to a broad array of educational opportunities with a focus on the STEM disciplines, Health Sciences and the Arts (STEAM-H). Discovery’s mission includes introducing youth to higher education and career exploration opportunities. Discovery operates Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm, and will offer three one-week camps during the summer of 2018. More information at https://mfyc.vcu.edu/.

“My favorite aspect of Discovery was working with the youth and the diversity of those who participated in my class. Having such a variety of students truly provided opportunities for worthwhile discussion, problem solving, and creative development.” - 2017 Discovery Instructor

Class Information:
- One-week sessions between July 30 – August 17, with a class size up to 16
- Classes can be
  - ½ day (3 hours) sessions in either the morning (9:00-12:00pm) or afternoon (12:30-3:30pm)
  - full-day (6.5 hours which includes ½ hour lunch)

RFP Process & Selection:
- Submit an online class proposal from January 22 – February 19, 2018.
- RFP should contain explicit inclusion of one or more of the STEAM-H disciplines
- RFP should include real-world, hands-on activities that support the objectives of the class
- Class proposals will be selected by March, 2018.
- Once accepted, submit a daily lesson plan by April, 2018.
- Attend online and in-person training prior to the start of the program.
- Instructors must pass a criminal and sex offender registry background check.

Benefits of Volunteering as a Discovery Instructor:

“It was great teaching experience & classroom environment. I really appreciated the freedom I was given to personalize the classes!” - 2017 Discovery Instructor

As a VCU Faculty Member:
- Mobilize and sustain a commitment to university-community partnerships for your VCU unit or program.
- Create a lasting connection between VCU and youth in the Richmond region.
- Inspire youth to pursue opportunities in higher education.
- Engage in service as a scholarly activity, thus fulfilling the role of a teaching, research and service faculty member
- Draw on your expertise as a faculty member to inspire the next generation
- Promote VCU as a welcoming, diverse institution
- Demonstrate excellence in your role through service.
- Allow Discovery to offer scholarships to underserved youth by volunteering your time.
- Administrative and classroom support provided by MFYC
As a VCU Student:
- Gain real world classroom experience working with students from a diverse urban environment.
- Engage in service, enhance your leadership skills and gain professional experience.
- Develop a professional network by connecting with youth serving professionals.
- Volunteer as part of an internship or externship.
- Benefit from positive youth development training.
- Build your resume and skillset.
- Allow Discovery to offer scholarships to underserved youth by volunteering your time.
- Administrative and classroom support provided by MFYC.

As a Community Member:
- Help create sustainable engagement opportunities that connect the broader community with VCU.
- Allow Discovery to offer scholarships to underserved youth by volunteering your time.
- Inspire youth to pursue opportunities in your profession.
- Create unique class options that are not taught during the school year.
- Share your passion with Richmond’s youth.
- Build a professional network at VCU.
- Grow your resume and skillset.
- Benefit from positive youth development training.
- Administrative and classroom support provided by MFYC.

Available Stipends:
- Pay will be based on degree and/or equivalent experience in leading youth programs.
  - $250 - $400 for each ½ day three class
  - $550 - $850 for each full-day six hour class
- If a course is co-taught, the instructors will split the pay.
- Qualified undergraduate students, supervised by faculty or staff, may provide classes as part of an internship or for pay.

Supplies:
- If you require supplies, a supply request form or a completed order form from your preferred supplier must be included with your RFP.
- Limited funds are available for supplies. Please consider equipment and supplies that you may already have or that you can borrow. We will contact you if we are unable to purchase items from your list.

“I loved working with the students. It was great to have a whole week to work on them with their projects and give them individualized attention.” - 2017 Discovery Instructor