Position Title: Research Intern – School Garden Evaluation Instrument Development

Position: Summer Intern. Open to current MSU students only. May 2015 graduates may apply.

Office Location: Jackson County, 1715 Lansing Ave. Jackson MI.
Personal transportation/mobility necessary

Available: May 2015 until end of August 2015, some flexibility may exist. The work is tentatively planned for sixteen 25 hour weeks

Status: Maximum 400 hours

Salary: $12 per hour

Administrative Relationship: Reports to supervising Extension Educator and District Coordinator

Background Summary: Municipalities and County Governments are increasingly looking to innovative programs to improve health outcomes community wide. One such innovative program is introducing school gardening curricula to improve health and wellbeing throughout the community. School gardens have been shown to improve nutritional and physical activity outcomes as well as create a greater awareness of where the food we eat comes from.

MSU Extension in Jackson County is seeking an intern to create a quantitative evaluation tool for an existing school garden program in Jackson County. The intern will develop the instrument for the curriculum, pilot the instrument in the summer school garden program, and make adjustments as necessary based on their experiences with delivery. If the intern wishes, they may observe or participate in delivery of one garden program currently established as part of their internship.
**Position Functions:**

- Conduct background research on current assessment tools used in garden programs throughout the country
- Develop a literacy neutral assessment tool based on background research
- Assist Extension Educator, other organization’s staff and community volunteers in testing the assessment tool
- Assist with the development and delivery of presentations
- Assist with outreach activities conducted by Extension Educators, community professionals and volunteers

**Desirable Skills and/or Experience:**

- Exceptional research skills
- Excellent organizational skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to effectively use computer software programs
- Ability to effectively interact with both community residents and professionals
- Ability to manage the demands of multiple project segments and deadlines
- Ability to work independently

**For Specific Information about this Internship Contact:**

Phil Tocco
Extension Educator for Food Safety

tocco@anr.msu.edu

To apply for consideration for this internship, please send your academic standing (program, year of study, GPA), resume and a cover letter by email to:
salmistu@msu.edu.

Write “Internship Application” to the subject line.

**Application deadline: March 6, 2015**