Organization information + supervisor information

Technology Access Foundation (TAF)
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Context

TAF is a nonprofit organization that knows every student deserves access to a high-quality public education, regardless of race, neighborhood or income. That's why TAF (Technology Access Foundation) has worked to improve access to STEM and technology fields for students of color and underrepresented communities for the past twenty years. Our work has spanned from running after-school programs, opening our own school, partnering with school districts and training education professionals to utilize our STEMbyTAF academic model. Through our efforts, we know that all students are capable of success – with the right support and resources.

In 2008, in partnership with the Federal Way Public School District, TAF created TAF Academy (TAFA), a college preparatory 6ᵗʰ -12ᵗʰ grade school with a curricular theme focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Our instructional framework is rooted in Project-based Learning (PBL) which engages students in learning through an extended inquiry process structured around complex, authentic questions and carefully designed products and tasks, and supported using educational technology and college and career readiness curricula. In 2017, TAF supported the transition and integration of TAFA with Saghalie Middle School to create a new school: TAF@Saghalie. The goal at TAF@Saghalie is to serve and impact students using best practices and lessons learned from eight years managing TAF Academy.

Since 2018 TAF has expanded its' reach to include 6 Transformation sites in 4 different districts.
 In 2019 partnered with Seattle Public Schools to co-manage Washington Middle Schools which implements our Academy model initially developed at TAF Academy.

Additionally, TAF has two other branches of their programming. The Network for EDwork (NWEW) focused on the support, development and retention of BIPOC teachers and leaders and The Academy of EDvancement the professional development arm of the organization.

Work Description

Driving Question: What requirements, guidance, and/or approaches to assessment and accountability need to change in order to have a system that centers the whole child and assesses the fullness of their learning?

Conduct a research project to identify high-leverage, state-of-the-art approaches and bold ideas that will advance assessment practices to new frontiers in 5 years or less. By creating effective frameworks, processes, and tools for an assessment system that focus on educational equity, the fellow will utilize and promote leading-edge tools that support Latinx and Black learners in TAF partner schools in western Washington. The fellow should be focused on the development of prototypes that harness the ability to gather asset-based, identity-affirming information from a student, an educator, or the environment to support more effective decision-making in order to advance academic and non-academic skills. These tools will be piloted with the use of defined data metrics and observation protocols with TAF@Saghalie staff (and other Transformation schools, time permitting) to assess areas for process improvement.

TAF's desired intern qualities:

- Ability to work independently and autonomously

- Confidence in navigating ambiguity and complexity
- Understand how to design and implement a variety of research processes, including focus groups, survey tools, and observations
- Can utilize a variety of data analysis tools and systems to identify clear trends and points from qualitative and quantitative data
- A commitment to cultivating equity in education – specifically related to explicitly anti-racist practices
- The ability to move between "high-level," conceptual strategic thinking to more concrete, practitioner-oriented strategies
- Experience working with students and adults from diverse backgrounds and learning needs
- Value life-long learning and continuous improvement in teaching and learning
- Understand the value of collaborating with peers and research to inform and improve practice
- Strong communication and critical listening skills
- Familiarity with project based learning and alternative assessment is a bonus!