

# **Job Announcement**

## **Students Deserve**

### **DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS**

**Schools LA Students Deserve** (Students Deserve) is a fully volunteer-run, member-led, grassroots organization made up of parents, students and teachers in Los Angeles. We are dedicated to building a movement to struggle against institutional oppressions such as class and race inequities that exist in the school system and in broader society.

**Students Deserve** launched a major campaign called Making Black Lives Matter in Schools with the local L.A. Black Lives Matter chapter. Inspired by the Movement for Black Lives platform, we are waging an invest/divest campaign focused on divesting from policies contributing to the school-to-prison pipeline, while building pressure to invest in what students actually need and deserve. We have also built campaigns with a coalition of local organizations in Reclaim Our Schools (ROS-LA) and the LA teachers' union (UTLA) culminating in a teacher/student/parent strike that secured victories around school-prison pipeline policies that most deeply impact Black, Brown and Muslim youth, weakening privatization efforts in LA, and securing serious investments in our schools.

We are trying to make contributions to the student movement, to the movement for Black lives, and to the movement for public education. We currently have no other paid staff – only volunteer member-leaders who organize throughout the city. All the work is done by student, parent and teacher volunteer members. We need a staff member with serious organizational experience to support our work and help us expand our capacity to take on the school-to-prison pipeline and attacks on communities of color. We are looking for a new team member who is committed to building the Movement for Black Lives through the student movement that we are building here in Los Angeles.

## **Students Deserve: DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS**

### **About the Position and Organization**

We seek an individual with a passion for organizing to build a movement, not just an organization or campaign. We believe in the capacity of all people to take leadership and grow; we are looking for someone who is eager to build the capacity and leadership of our members. We want this person to help strengthen and develop structures and a culture that are horizontal and non-hierarchical. The ideal candidate will enjoy working with both new and experienced grassroots leaders. The position will help support members' leadership and ability to organize and bring about policy changes, cultural shifts, and investment that improve the quality of life for predominantly poor and working class indigenous/Latina/Black/Muslim communities.

Our organization does not have its own office. There will not be other staff members to work with. Instead, this position will be working daily with the support team of members. Our organization has access to a shared office space but this position would require regular travel to meet with people in person. Working from home would be an option on some days if desired.

We are not looking for someone to be a spokesperson or the sole leader; instead, we want someone who is eager to work collaboratively with member-leaders who are doing on-the-ground organizing. Since ALL of our members are parents, students, and/or teachers, we need someone who can meet during some daytimes, weekends and evenings. This role includes building alliances and working relationships with other organizations and unions. The ideal candidate will balance the need to work with these organizations and unions as well as maintain independence from these entities as needed.

We are looking locally in Los Angeles as well as conducting a national search for the right person to join us and build this work. This is a full-time position with health benefits. Salary is \$65,000-\$75,000 annually, dependent upon experience and qualifications.

*Schools LA Students Deserve is a project of Coalition for Educational Justice (CEJ). CEJ is funded through the non-profit status of Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE). SEE is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer that actively recruits people of color, women, people with disabilities and people who identify as part of the LGBTQ community.*

## **Students Deserve: DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS**

### **Job Description** - Responsibilities/Essential Functions include:

- Monitor, guide and support multiple moving pieces in the organization similar to the way an Executive Director would
- Facilitate and assist with the development and implementation of short, medium, and long-term strategies with us as members
- Coordinate current campaigns and tactics with us as members
- Represent our work in coalition spaces when parents, students and teachers are unavailable (for example, during school days)
- Fundraising: grant writing, program development, relationship-building with current and prospective funders, AND developing potential funding streams in the local grassroots communities.
- Handle administrative work, including relationship with our fiscal sponsor.
- Plan ahead for upcoming meetings and agendas; work with a team to support young people to genuinely lead those.
- Generate ideas on how to expand the work, deepen the leadership
- Reflect, take initiative, and bring proposals and ideas to the group
- Report to a team of members who coordinate this work
- Supervise up to two employees that we may hire in the future

### **Job Requirements**

- At least 10 years of experience organizing with poor/low-income people of color
- Experience working collaboratively with youth
- Fundraising and/or grant writing experience
- Experience co-developing and carrying-out multi-issue campaigns
- Dedication to building political/economic justice; Deep understanding of issues facing Black and indigenous/Latina communities, queer and trans people, undocumented people, and low-income and poor families
- Strong analysis of gender and sexism; anti-sexist and anti-patriarchal practice
- Excellent organizational skills – attention to detail and strong organization skills
- Ability to understand and monitor financial reports

- Ability to both take initiative and ask for help
- Ability to work well with diverse groups and constituencies
- Ability to communicate meaningfully and regularly on phone, email, text, etc.
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings and some weekends, with advance notice
- Willingness to travel out of town for about two conferences a year.
- Access to a reliable and insured car required.
- Spanish/English bilingual and bicultural strongly preferred.
- Experience working within coalitions strongly preferred.

## **How to apply**

Inquiries welcome before April 12. By April 24, 2019, send a cover letter, resume and two letters of recommendation to [studentsdeservejustice@gmail.com](mailto:studentsdeservejustice@gmail.com) with the subject line “Application: Students Deserve - Director of Operations and Campaigns”