



ERASE RACISM STUDENT VOICES CAMPAIGN: SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Our Student Voices Campaign (SVC) has two new, exciting opportunities happening this summer! We are currently searching for students interested in either participating in a focus group and/or a short term internship. The focus group’s purpose is for the students to be the experts, helping us answer questions about race, culture, and advocacy opportunities throughout their high school experience.

The internship will be with our SVC for at least a 4 week commitment, with a minimum of 20 hours per week. We are searching for applicants that have a passion for social justice and an interest in teaching others how to be active advocates. The SVC intern would have a key role in assisting with aspects of our short and long term goals (see back page).

We want the Student Voices Campaign to be a student led movement, therefore your input this summer would be invaluable in moving collaboration in the right direction! If you have any interest in participating in a focus group or applying for the internship, please email Nyah Berg at nyah@eraseracismny.org or call at (516) 921-4863 ext. 14.

Who and What is ERASE Racism?

We are a nonprofit civil rights group that fights against discrimination and inequity. We use research, policy advocacy, lobbying, lawsuits, organizing residents, and educating the public to build a more inclusive Long Island.

What is the Student Voices Campaign?

Long Island has very segregated public schools, i.e., most students go to schools with students that share common racial /ethnic backgrounds and/or similar family income situations. Mostly, students do not have the opportunity to interact with students that are different from themselves; even though decades of research indicate that racially, culturally, and economically diverse schools supply both short- and long-term benefits for all students.ⁱ In general, student voices have not been included in conversations about the benefits of school integration. ERASE Racism’s Student Voices Campaign will change that.

LOOKING AHEAD: THE STUDENT VOICES CAMPAIGN

What are our short term goals?

Through student outreach, our main goal is to facilitate actions and events that not only get student voices **heard** in discussions regarding equity and policy, but also get students **involved** in developing solutions. This summer, we want to hear from the students on how we can create a platform for students to become agents of change.

The information we gather from the student focus group(s) over the summer will be used to develop workshops for the 2017-2018 school year. ERASE Racism wants to be an invaluable asset for students who have a clear vision and passion for social justice, but may not know how to turn conversations into policy and practice. The focus groups will allow ERASE Racism to better target its training to respond to students' social justice interests as well as students' needs for training in all aspects of advocacy work.

What are our long term goals?

The focus group and 2017-2018 school year workshops are stepping stones to an ultimate goal: creating a student led coalition that spans across Long Island. Student ambassadors would be chosen from across all districts to discuss solutions to segregation in Long Island Public Schools. A coalition would amplify the student voice to such a magnitude that policy makers, political figures and district leaders could not ignore their demand for integration.

ⁱ For a summary of this research, see Roslyn Mickelson, "School Integration and K-12 Educational Outcomes: A Quick Synthesis of Social Science Evidence," (National Coalition on School Diversity, 2015), available at <http://www.school-diversity.org/pdf/DiversityResearchBriefNo5.pdf>; Genevieve Siegel-Hawley, "How Non-Minority Students Also Benefit from Racially Diverse Schools," (National Coalition on School Diversity, 2012), available at <http://school-diversity.org/pdf/DiversityResearchBriefNo8.pdf>.