SERVICES PROVIDED:

The Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality (SKCE) formed in 1999 to help improve education outcomes for low-income and minority students. Our mission is to promote equality in education and justice; advocate for respect of civil and human rights; seek accountability from administrators and policy makers; seek to unite the Salem/Keizer community to speak with one voice to end discrimination, and finally, to support and network with statewide organizations and education reform advocates who support our mission for education reform and justice.

Our main goal is to eliminate the achievement gap through empowering Latino parents to be involved in their child’s education, engaging partners to invest in education, advocating for education system reforms, and providing unique, culturally appropriate programs to help increase high school and college success in Latino youth of color and of non-English speaking backgrounds.

SKCE has three main programmatic areas:

1. Parent Organizing Project (POP) is a series of Parent Involvement workshops, conferences and training of trainers (TOT) in Salem-Keizer and in districts around the state, using a curriculum, Educa e Inspira (Educate & Inspire), created by staff, parents and bilingual teachers. The curriculum teaches many concepts about the American education system and how to navigate it and advocate to help Latino children succeed.

2. Early Literacy and Parenting Education: Parent Involvement in teaching reading and literacy skills happens in Leyendo Avanzamos, Abriendo Puertas, Aprendiendo Avanzamos, and additional parenting skills are taught in Haga de la Paternidad un Placer.
3. Youth programs: includes Lego Robotics for Latino youth with Spanish speaking parents who are not able to get involved with a school program, Mock Trial program for Latino youth whose first language was Spanish, working with Willamette Law School professors and volunteers, Video Production gives Latino youth another creative opportunity to succeed, and includes working with CCTV, and Youth Leadership programs.

ROLE OF THE PRACTICUM STUDENT:

- Student will be assigned to 10 to 15 female youth ages 14 to 18, from SKSD alternative high school programs
- Lead two or three hour activities once per week
- Form a mentor relationship with each student
- Mentor in the form of phone calls or home visits once per week
- Lead and assist with half-day or full-day field trips once every two to three weeks, for a total of three, or possibly four, throughout program (combined with other groups and with SKCE staff)
- Report on activities and results on paper or computer tracking forms and evaluation forms
- Build relationships with each parent with the start-up home visits and periodic check-ins by phone
- Be reasonably available for mentoring a youth or parent in crisis, with resources and staff from SKCE

REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRACTICUM STUDENT:

- Spanish/English and bi-cultural required
- Past experience with Latino teens (or can include having been one!)
- Understanding of teen emotional development and behavior
- Understanding of cultural identity issues for Latino teens
- Ability to learn more about psychology of teen behavior and at-risk prevention

CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK MAY BE REQUIRED

As of April 15, 2011, practicum sites that use the Department of Human Services Background Check Unit will now conduct a weighing test and fitness determination when an individual has been identified as the perpetrator of abuse in certain cases of sexual abuse, physical abuse or financial exploitation. The Background Check Unit will specifically consider the most serious cases of abuse reported and substantiated from January 1, 2010, forward.