



THE COMMUNITY TABLE

May 10, 2013

Dear Community:

I am writing to announce the Hill District Consensus Group Youth Organizers for Educational Change Program for high school students. Would you please forward it to students who might be interested? Although the application is attached to this letter, I encourage applicants to submit their applications online at:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16IAQGjva-qUm3ENrv5sD3m\\_sGUoPErsjXmCcmx9e738/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16IAQGjva-qUm3ENrv5sD3m_sGUoPErsjXmCcmx9e738/viewform)

The Consensus Group is a community nonprofit committed to establishing and enforcing standards and processes in all aspects of community life: economic, political, spiritual and social for the on-going health and prosperity of the community. Recognizing the need to closely understand how community issues affect youth in the community, the Consensus Group has developed a youth organizing program for local high school students to work alongside our community organizing staff in the community.

This is a yearlong pay endeavor, beginning **May 29, 2013**. The youth organizing program will provide opportunities for the community youths to:

- Work as a group to develop and implement youth organizing projects focusing on school and community issues.
- Research educational issues, implement best practices, and build relationships with community organizations working to improve the environment within Pittsburgh Public Schools.
- Learn how to use media as an organizing and social action tool in order to address school and community improvement needs.
- Earn money to learn about youth organizing, education reform, and current events that affect the city communities' public schools. In addition, youth organizers will receive Port Authority Transit passes.
- Engage with community organizations, residents and leaders to understand how to be a force for positive change.

The Youth Organizers program description, application, and reference form are attached. **Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.** For general information about the Consensus Group and a link to the electronic copy of this application, please refer applicants to our website at [www.hdcg.org](http://www.hdcg.org). You (or potential applicants) can contact me at (412) 697- 4692 or via e-mail at [brown@hdcg.org](mailto:brown@hdcg.org) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Brian*

Brian Brown

Community & Youth Organizer

1835 Centre Avenue – Suite 265 – Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone (412) 697-4692 – Fax (412) 697-4687

**Hill District Consensus Group**  
2013 – 2014 Youth Organizers for Educational Change  
Program Description

**Overview:**

The Hill District Consensus Group (HDCG) youth organizers program provides participants with an opportunity to promote youth empowerment, organizing and action to improve Hill District schools and the broader community. In turn, the HDCG expects to benefit from this program by bringing the perspectives of the community youth to our organizing and change efforts. The Consensus Group seeks high school students with an interest in education reform, community development, civic engagement, media and/or video journalism. Students will meet several times a month and participate in educational workshops, and trainings.

**Tasks and Responsibilities:**

The youth organizers will use media as an organizing and social action tool in order to address school and community improvement needs. Youth organizers are expected to recruit and help mobilize peers from their respective schools and neighborhoods who seek educational change.

**Key Skills and Abilities:**

- Ability to work effectively in diverse teams of youth and adults
- Enthusiasm and creativity
- Confidence and self-motivation
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to respect confidential information

**Logistics:**

- This is a yearlong after-school program.
- Training will take place at the Hill District Consensus Group office.
- Youth Organizers are paid stipends and provided with Port Authority Transit passes for the duration of the program.
- Opportunity to travel around the country for youth organizing opportunities.



II. **Essays:** *Please answer these two questions. Essay answers should not exceed a total of two, single-spaced pages. Be honest in your responses, there is no right or wrong response to the questions.*

- 1 What is a problem in your school that you believe needs to be change? What would you do to fix it? Why do you think this is the best approach?
- 2 Why are you interested in this program? What would you hope to get out of it? What skills and perspective would you specifically bring to the program?

III. **Applicant Reference Form:** *Please have an adult who knows you well complete the attached letter of recommendation and submit it separately. This could be a teacher, employment supervisor, or someone with whom you worked in school or an extracurricular activity, not a parent or guardian.*

Name of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference's telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send completed application to:**

**By Mail:**

**Brian Brown  
Community & Youth Organizer  
Hill District Consensus Group  
1835 Centre Avenue  
Suite 265  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

**By E-mail:**

**brown@hdcg.org**

***You will receive confirmation that your application has been received. Please retain a copy of your completed application as backup. HDCG representative will contact you regarding meeting place, dates, and times.***

**Hill District Consensus Group**  
2013 – 2014 Youth Organizers for Educational Change Program  
Letter of Recommendation

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number for Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** *This reference should be completed by an adult who knows the applicant well, such as a teacher, clergy, activity sponsor or employer. Please compose a letter of recommendation that addresses the applicant's qualifications for this program. Within the letter, please include your assessment of the applicant's.*

- Motivation, confidence and leadership ability
- Ability to work in group settings
- Awareness of current events and social issues
- Communication skills
- Time management
- Ability to grow if provided with this opportunity

**Please mail this form and letter directly to the Hill District Consensus Group:**

**Brian Brown  
Community & Youth Organizer  
Hill District Consensus Group  
1835 Centre Avenue  
Suite 265  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

**Or by e-mail to [brown@hdcg.org](mailto:brown@hdcg.org) or fax to (412) 697-4687**