

Job Title: *RISE Intern: Public Education Partners + Urban League of the Upstate*

Internship Description

This internship is part of the Riley Institute Summer Experience (RISE). RISE interns will work with an organization for 10 weeks over the summer to increase the organization's capacity for community impact work, helping them address critical public issues. Additionally, RISE interns will meet weekly on Furman's campus to work on internship goals and learn about various career paths related to community impact and/or public policy work.

This shared learning and pre-professional experience will involve work with two of Greenville's most longstanding nonprofit organizations – Public Education Partners of Greenville County and the Urban League of the Upstate – both of which are focused on increasing access to educational opportunities for students who face barriers. The internship will include responsibilities with both organizations, including collaborative work around family engagement and empowerment in Greenville County that both PEP and the Urban League are helping to lead.

Founded in 1985 by Greenville's business and civic leaders, **Public Education Partners (PEP)** serves as an innovation partner for Greenville County Schools and a champion for public education. With a mission to strengthen, support, and advance public education in Greenville County, PEP's strategic plan centers three pillars of action: Champion Teachers, Equip Families, and Advance Collaboration. PEP's core values are collaboration, opportunity, research, continuous learning, and independence.

The mission of the **Urban League of the Upstate (UL)** is to advance equity and economic empowerment for Black and other underserved communities through advocacy, education, and economic stability. It's vision: a thriving community where everyone has the opportunity to live, learn, and work. UL's work promotes family self-sufficiency through:

- Education & Youth Development: Preparing youth for college, work, and life.
- Jobs & Workforce Development: Providing job training, placement, and entrepreneurship support to boost employment and income.
- Housing & Community Development: Advocating for affordable housing and promoting financial stability to create vibrant, thriving neighborhoods.
- Health & Quality of Life: Addressing health disparities and Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) through specific programs.

Key duties for PEP will include:

- Support for development of its Equip Families Framework, including the inaugural Parent Summit or other parent education activities, online parent resources, promotional materials for Parent Leadership Partners program and other mission-focused work

- Engagement around GCS Summer Academy programming and back-to-school activities to welcome educators back to classrooms
- Assistance with organizational fundraising kick-off for FY2027
- Development of video materials for PEP social media and website

Key duties for the Urban League will include:

- Assistance with logistics and preparation of materials for the Pilot Family intake
- Help establish the data protocol to ensure connection between services
- Update and formalize the community resource database for navigators
- Assist in creating quick-reference toolkits for removing immediate family barriers (housing, transport, health)
- Support the Universal Prevention Coalition activities (e.g., SFP/Triple P programs)
- Coordinate logistics for parent upskilling and certification programs with partners
- Help set up the system for tracking key outcomes, such as income increases and certifications
- Assist in planning/materials for any workshops

Expected learning outcomes & professional skills: Through this experience, the intern will have the opportunity to gain valuable experience with established nonprofit organizations that have a long legacy of impact on Greenville during a moment of significant program development. At PEP, interns will gain hands-on experience with content development, program and event design and evaluation, and technology (donor management software). They will be part of weekly team meetings to learn about all aspects of PEP's work, and they will have the opportunity to join the staff at special events outside of the office. At the Urban League, the intern will gain direct, hands-on experience in building a Family-Centric Collaborative Ecosystem for generational lift. They will learn how to successfully synchronize the Two-Generation (2Gen) Strategy, ensuring parents achieve economic empowerment while children gain stability and educational traction. This involves actively participating in cross-sector partnership by supporting logistical preparation for family intake and the Parent Leadership Program (PLP), assisting navigators with barrier removal by refining resource toolkits, and helping to establish the essential "Handshake" data protocol to connect services and avoid fragmentation. Ultimately, the experience will provide practical knowledge in moving an initiative from isolated services to a unified system for long-term economic mobility and advocacy.

Work setting: A regular schedule will be created by the intern and their supervisors before the start of the internship. It will likely consist of two in-person work days at each site and one remote work day each week. Some events and activities may require slight changes to the regular schedule and may involve some hours outside of regular business hours, not to exceed 35 hours per week.

Training and support: The intern will have a site supervisor and mentor at each internship site – Maureen Coburn, programs and operations manager at PEP and Dr. Edward Anderson, senior advisor for family empowerment and student success at UL – and will have regular meetings with each supervisor to discuss progress and learning outcomes. At PEP, the student will receive formal onboarding directed by the supervisor. The intern will report to multiple team members depending on the project and will have the opportunity to meet with each staff member for a conversation about their role and professional journey (these conversations will begin early during the internship as part of the onboarding process). At the Urban League, the intern's onboarding will commence with a mandatory one-day orientation and training session led by the supervisor. This dedicated session will provide a comprehensive introduction to the Greer Family Empowerment Framework, the Two-Generation (2Gen) strategy, and the roles of all key partners (UL, PEP, JSS, etc.). The intern can expect to receive ongoing mentorship, guidance, and direct oversight for all collaborative activities and project milestones at both internship sites.

This is a full-time (35 hrs/wk) internship, spanning 10 weeks during the summer (June 8 – August 14). Supervisors may grant up to 5 days off, in addition to any summer holidays observed by the host organizations.

Students hired for a RISE internship should apply for funding, transcript credit, and discounted campus housing through Furman's internship office *by March 31, 2026*. In addition to the stipend received from the internship office, the Riley Institute will cover the cost of campus housing for students living on-campus.

To learn more about the RISE internship program, visit <https://www.furman.edu/riley/students/students/rise/>.

To learn more about the work of Public Education Partners of Greenville County, visit <https://pepgc.org/>.

To learn more about the work of the Urban League of the Upstate, visit <https://urbanleagueupstate.org/>.

Eligibility

Applicant Type: Greenville Area Applicants

Class Level: Any

Position Information

Title: RISE Intern: Public Education Partners + Urban League of the Upstate

Employer Name: The Riley Institute at Furman University

Organization Description

The Riley Institute empowers emerging and established leaders—across sectors and throughout society—with the knowledge and tools to advance equity and drive social and economic progress in South Carolina and beyond. We work to strengthen public education; promote the power of diversity to help teams, organizations, and communities thrive; and elevate informed, evidence-based approaches to critical public issues. In all it does, the institute is committed to nonpartisanship and a bias-free path to change.

No. of Openings: 1

Wage/Salary: Eligible to apply for \$3,500 funding through Furman’s internship office

Qualifications:

This internship will best serve a student with an interest in education policy and practice, with a particular focus on under-resourced populations. The student should be able to manage multiple projects at once and have strong organizational and communication skills. Because the student will be interfacing with families, it is important that they have a strong sense of empathy and understanding of differences based on language, culture, and socio-economic status. Strong communications skills and knowledge of communications tools, including video, are desired.

Application Instructions

Here is how to apply: To apply for this position, please complete the online application linked below. You will be asked to upload a resume and answer a few questions (250 words max per question). You will also need to provide the names of two references (faculty or staff on campus preferred). You may apply for up to two RISE internships with a single application. If you do so, please make sure that you have thoroughly read the job description for each internship you apply for. Please email Kendall Gallagher-King with questions: kendall.gallagher@furman.edu.

Applications are due no later than Sunday, February 8, 2026. The Riley Institute will follow up with successful applicants via email to schedule an interview.

Apply here: <https://www.furman.edu/riley/students/students/rise/>

Contact Information

Share Contact Information: Yes

Title: Director, Riley Institute Student Programs

Contact Name: Kendall Gallagher-King

Address: 3300 Poinsett Hwy, Greenville, SC 29613

Contact Email Address: kendall.gallagher@furman.edu

Phone Number: 864-294-3569

Posting Information

Location: Greenville, SC, USA

Internship Available In? FT Summer

Days/Hours of Duration: 10 weeks, June to August

Internship Category: Riley; Community Services/Non-profits; Economic/Business Development; Poverty-Service; Fundraising & Development

Industry: Community Services/Non-profits; Education; Event Planning; Economic Development