

Job Title: Lilly Endowment Theological Program For High School Youth Graduate Assistantship

Department: Youth in Theology and Ministry

Supervision: Dr. Jeffrey Kaster, Director of Youth in Theology and Ministry

Background

In 2012 Saint John's School of Theology•Seminary received a grant from the Lilly Endowment to help them coordinate the thirty-nine theological programs for high school youth at seminaries and schools of theology throughout North America. Dr. Jeffrey Kater, Director of the Youth in Theology and Ministry program will be the coordinator of this program. This graduate assistantship will primarily focus on supporting this coordination effort primarily through work on the website and blog and well as assisting in other administrative tasks.

Purpose

There are four purposes of a Graduate Assistantship: 1) to provide students with an opportunity for ministerial or other skill development within the area of adolescent ministry, while completing a degree in graduate theological study; 2) to provide opportunities for discernment of vocational interest and competence; and 3) to provide students with experience to foster full time employment upon graduation; 4) to provide students with funding that will help sustain them as students at St John's School of Theology

Financial Award Graduate Assistantship (15 hours of work per week)

1. SOT Scholarship:	\$9,360*
2. GA Work Award:	\$3,500
3. Living Allowance:	<u>\$4,000</u>
Total	\$16,860

* The 65% tuition scholarship is listed as an example. Tuition scholarships, ranging from 50% to 100%, are awarded when an applicant is approved for a degree program.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Admission into a degree program at the School of Theology.
2. Completion of a BA or BS degree.
3. Registered for 9 or more credits (full time study)
4. Maintain a 3.0 GPA.
5. Experience or strong interest in youth ministry research and/or curriculum.

Position Descriptions

- To assist in the management the Lilly Youth Theology website. The primary duty will be to help coordinate Lilly's Theological Programs for High School Youth (TPHSY) blog. The GA will also help manage the website based curricular file sharing from the thirty-nine Lilly initiated youth theology programs with the broader church.
- To assist in the coordination of national webinars on youth ministry.
- To assist in coordinating gatherings of staff from Lilly's Theological Programs for High School Youth (TPHSY).

- To assist data collection process that would track youth participant in Lilly initiation theological program for high school youth.
- A variety of other administrative tasks that support this project as well as the possibility of other research or teaching opportunities related to youth ministry.

Overview of the Coordination of Lilly’s Theological Programs for High School Youth

Mission

The principle aim of this coordination is to provide ongoing professional support for the thirty-eight theological program directors in the TPHY in order that these programs may be sustained. Additionally, this coordination will inform the wider church community on the ways in which seminaries are effectively engaging youth in theology and fostering vocations in church ministry. Finally, the coordination will provide the wider church community access to the bounty of resources, practices, and curricula developed by the thirty-eight theological programs for high school youth.

Goals

The primary aim of the coordination effort is to provide ongoing support for the youth theology programs by establishing and sustaining a youth theology community/network composed of programs leaders.

Goals designed to foster this primary aim: The coordination effort seeks to:

1. provide platforms for mutual learning and support (e.g., conferences, videoconferences, website, etc.) through which youth theology leaders share insights, exchange resources and build supportive relationships with each other;
2. foster disciplined inquiries and conversations about common challenges impacting youth theology programs (e.g., recruitment, sustainability, etc.);
3. help new program leaders build up their leadership skills and become members of the wider community/network (e.g., orientation conversations);
4. assist project leaders in identifying resources that may strengthen their programs and leadership (e.g., webinars, etc.); and
5. assist in the ongoing collection of data about youth theology participants and leaders.

A secondary aim is to assist Lilly Endowment in capturing and sharing key insights from the youth theology programs with wider audiences.

Goals designed to foster this secondary aim: The coordination effort seeks to:

6. track and inform Lilly staff of emerging insights that may be helpful to seminaries, congregations and other religious organizations; and
7. assist Lilly staff in devising strategies for sharing these insights with appropriate audiences.

Application Process

Phase I: Complete the Application Process for Admission to Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary

Mary Beth Banken, Director of Admissions
Admission Office
Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary
P.O. Box 7288
Collegeville, MN 56321
320 363-2896
mbanken@csbsju.edu

Please note that you need to be accepted into the SOT prior to applying for the Graduate Assistantship with the Coordination of Lilly's Theological Programs for High School Youth

Phase II: The following can be submitted electronically to: jkaster@csbsju.edu

1. Submit the application form for Graduate Assistantship with the TPHSY along with your vocational interest essay:
 - a. Describe your experiences in youth ministry and/or catechesis.
 - b. Describe which aspects of the position description interest you the most and how this work fits into your vocational discernment and/or career path.
 - c. List and explain three things you would like to learn from this position.
 - d. Outline 3 or 4 skills that you would bring to this position.
2. Submit a current resumé,

Applications will be reviewed beginning March 1, 2013.

Direct all questions to:

Dr. Jeffrey Kaster
School of Theology-Seminary
Director Youth in Theology and Ministry
P.O. Box 7288
Collegeville, Minnesota 56321
320 363-2620
jkaster@csbsju.edu



SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY • SEMINARY

SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

**GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP IN Coordination of
Theological Programs for High School Youth
APPLICATION**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Include with this application page:

I. Essay: Please respond to the following questions in an essay of two (2) to four (4) pages in length.

1. Describe your experiences in youth ministry and/or catechesis.
2. Describe which aspects of the position description interest you the most and how this work fits into your vocational discernment and/or career path.
3. List and explain three things you would like to learn from this position.
4. Outline two or three main skills that you would bring to this position.

II. Resume: Submit a current resume.

Email to Dr. Jeffrey Kaster (jkaster@csbsju.edu). Application will be reviewed beginning March 1, 2013.