



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Center for Global Engagement

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December 14, 2007

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am the Director of the Center for Global Engagement at Northwestern University. The CGE provides a comprehensive training space for young people to become effective and responsible agents of change in a global world. We provide educational programs, resources, and a community of support that challenges young people to build equitable relationships with communities across borders and think beyond good intentions to do good well.

I am writing to provide background information for a grant competition we run every year called the Mind the Gap Fellowship. A student that is applying for the grant has listed your organization as a potential partner for their project.

Each year the Mind the Gap Fellowship awards funding to graduating seniors to execute a project for up to 6-12 months that addresses a human rights issue that changes each year. This year the focus issue is HIV/AIDS. As part of their proposals, we ask students to build relationships with local organizations that they can partner with to conduct their project. An important criteria in our selection processes for the grant is the extent to which the student can build a strong, equitable relationship with a local organization and demonstrate that their project will add value to the ongoing work of local communities. Past Mind the Gap Fellows have proven to be valuable resources for their organization partners by conducting research, developing programs, providing mentorship for young people, marketing and fundraising with international audiences, and more.

It is important for you to know that Mind the Gap is a very competitive grant. This year we have about 20 applicants for two fellowships. The fact the your are receiving this letter does not guarantee that the student will be able to work with your organization. At the CGE, we are always careful to be very clear with organizations so as to not irresponsibly raise expectations. Should this student receive the Mind the Gap Fellowship, the CGE will provide funding and check-in regularly with the fellow through email and by phone. It is up to the student to make all arrangements for their project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions about the Mind the Gap Fellowship and your role in the process as a potential partner organization.

Sincerely yours,

Nathaniel Whittemore

Director

Center for Global Engagement