

America Reads/America Counts



William Jewell College

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Number of hours per week: Flexible

Workday schedule: Monday-Friday during Liberty School District's school hours.

Semester(s) of employment: Must commit for Fall and Spring semesters- Begins in Aug

Starting Wage: \$15.00/hr for first full academic year (only work-study eligible students are eligible)

The America Reads / America Counts Program at William Jewell College connects Work-Study eligible undergraduate students from across disciplines with partner public schools and non-profit agencies. Students work as tutors to young people at these sites, helping to fulfill the mission of the federal America Reads / America Counts program.

America Reads is a national initiative, established by President Clinton in 1996, which is designed to ensure that every child learns to read well and independently by the end of third grade. Research shows that if children cannot read well by this time, their chances for success shrink.

America Counts was initiated in July 1999 as an effort to improve student achievement in mathematics and assist students in mastering challenging mathematics, including the foundations of algebra and geometry, by the end of the 9th grade

The primary goal of the America Reads/America Counts project at William Jewell College is to increase the math and literacy achievement of elementary and middle school aged children in the Liberty area.

The America Reads Mission is:

To promote literacy skills in the community

- Give younger children a firm literacy basis
- Assist those children who lack the motivation and/or resources to learn to read, helping them to learn to read well and independently
- Boost the self-esteem and reading levels of the students who are behind grade level
- Use our unique position in the classroom to be positive role models, and grant children the one-on-one attention they need to succeed in school
- Spread a positive attitude towards education and reading

The America Counts Mission is:

Participating elementary school students will

- Develop a positive attitude about mathematics and increase motivation to link concepts to everyday life
- Receive personal attention
- Improve basic mathematics skills and strategies for problem solving and critical thinking
- Complete long term projects linking mathematics concepts to real-world activities
- Improve strategies for taking mathematics assessments
- Increase cooperative learning skills

- Gain insight to solving complex problems

How the program works:

Work-study eligible students at Jewell who serve as tutors through the America Reads/America Counts program are compensated through the university. Jewell coordinates partnerships with local public elementary and middle schools who seek to place tutors at their schools. Our partner schools agree to screen and supervise tutors, to verify hours worked, and to have tutors work directly with students on academic tasks. Public schools or their districts incur the costs for any requisite background checks or district-required processing.

Important information:

- Any matriculated Jewell student is eligible to participate, and previous experience as a tutor is not a requirement for participation
- Schools screen potential tutors to determine whether they will work at the site
- Schools are responsible for supervision of tutors and for verifying hours worked
- Tutors can work up to 19 hours weekly, although most work between 8 and 12 hours weekly
- A schedule acceptable to both the site and the tutor is arranged

What is asked of Tutors?

We ask tutors to take their role seriously, including the following:

- Being consistent and punctual in meeting their scheduled hours
- Notifying the appropriate contact person should they not be able to attend on a given day
- Taking their lead from the classroom teacher in supporting student academics
- Following the dress code of the school site