Getting Good Work Done Helps Undergraduates Build a Professional Portfolio

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Introduction

• Minnesota Sea Grant
  – Research
  – Education
  – Extension
    • AIS internship program
Monitoring work with 1854 Treaty Authority
AIS Internship Program

• Expansion
  – New funding
  – New focus
  – New partners
Internship focus

- Technical skills building
- Communication
- Scientific design
- Scientific writing
- Support and encouragement

Collaborating on stream study design
Internship options

• Volunteer - students provide support by staffing booths at community events.

• Credit-based - students receive training, communication and leadership skills building opportunities, and special project support

• Paid – students receive same and credit-based internships, plus technical skills building support (i.e. get to work in a lab or in the field, with in a research or management capacity
Internship structure

- Community outreach
- Credit based project
- Technical skills
Community outreach
Watercraft inspection
Curly-leaf pondweed compost study
Creating artificial stream beds
Results – the good work done

- 60+ community events (July and Aug since 2010)
- 157 watercraft inspected (2017)
- 12.5 Acres treated (2017)
- 20+ Special projects completed (since 2010)
Evaluation – short term

• “As a graduate student, I think about scientific communication a lot and I believe it is an extremely important skill that I will use throughout my career—a skill which I began developing when I was an intern.”

• “Being a Sea Grant intern helped me professionally by connecting me with [a researcher] and being able to work in his lab.”
Post Undergraduate College Employment and Graduate School Percentages

- Total: 100%
- PE: 47%
- GS: 18%
- GS and PE: 18%
- Unknown: 18%
Positive Outcomes

- St. Louis County
- Minnesota Sea Grant
- Partner organizations

Working with fellow interns
Case study
Outreach
Fieldwork