Chesapeake StREAM Internship
Capacity Building

The Chesapeake-Student Recruitment, Early Advisement, and Mentoring program (C-StREAM) is a collaboratively funded effort that develops and trains a diverse population of future leaders in environmental research, restoration, and protection by engaging them over multiple years in mentored engagement experiences. The program focuses on recruiting future leaders from populations historically excluded from the environmental field and currently under-represented in environmental research and management professions.

Project Description

The Chesapeake Bay Program (www.chesapeakebay.net) and Chesapeake Research Consortium (www.chesapeake.org) seek a C-StREAM summer intern for late May through mid-August (12 weeks) to provide support to Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership goal implementation teams and workgroups. The Chesapeake Bay Program brings together leaders from state, federal, and local government, as well as academia and the watershed's many communities, to collaborate on creating the best strategies and tools for cleaning up the Bay and the rivers and streams that flow into it. The Chesapeake Bay Program is fueled by science and driven by the partnership.

Riparian forest buffers are critical for improving water quality and climate resiliency in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. However, riparian forest buffer planting rates have yet to meet ambitious goals set in the 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement and State Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). This intern will be responsible for evaluating financial and human capacity needs for accelerating riparian forest buffer planting. The intern will work with mentors to explore the financial and human capacity factors driving the implementation gap for riparian forest buffers. This will involve meeting with state and local forestry and non-governmental organization partners to document and evaluate how their funding/staffing levels have changed over time, identifying barriers for increasing funding/staffing levels, looking for relationships between funding/staffing levels and planting rates, and evaluating how funding and staffing levels have impacted riparian forest buffer planting rates across the watershed. This intern may also support other timely Forestry Workgroup projects. This work supports the Water Quality – 2025 science need to compile best practices and case studies of effective capacity-building and retention of technical assistance providers.

Opportunities

This internship will provide a unique opportunity to contribute to large-scale, long-term natural resource management and policy development critical to understanding new ways to improve Chesapeake Bay water quality and manage Chesapeake Bay living resources most effectively and efficiently across the 64,000 square mile Chesapeake Bay watershed. The C-StREAM student will gain experience in natural resource management, restoration science, and environmental policy. In addition, this internship experience will provide insights into careers in natural resource management, policy development, and science beyond those applied for and allows students to make connections with established environmental management and science professionals.

Responsibilities and Deliverables

- Meet with state and local forestry and non-governmental organization partners to document and evaluate how their funding/staffing levels have changed over time, identify barriers for increasing and maintaining funding/staffing levels, and determine key skills and competencies needed.
- Evaluate relationships between funding/staffing levels and planting rates to determine how these capacities have impacted riparian forest buffer planting rates across the watershed
- (If possible) Estimate funding/staffing levels needed to reach the goals in the WIPs.
- Compile information gathered into a final report with input from the mentor on the overall organization and structure of the report
- Support other timely Forestry Workgroup projects.
- Present at the C-StREAM end-of-summer student symposium.

Requirements

- Interest in environmental science, communication, and/or community engagement.
- Motivated self-starter with the ability to work and reason independently.
- Must be a college-level student entering sophomore, junior, or senior year of undergraduate study. Students are also eligible to participate during the immediate summer following their graduation if they are pursuing graduate studies in the fall.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen and willing to undergo a security background check.

Work Location and Duration

This position will be in person with options for remote work as needed. This in-person and virtual opportunity will be based out of the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, Maryland. The internship is scheduled to begin Monday, May 22 and end Friday, August 11. These are our preferred dates, but the dates can be adjusted to accommodate a student's school schedule if required. We plan on providing interns with access to an EPA computer, email, and phone services if this internship is offered in person. If the internship is

virtual, interns will need to have access to suitable internet, computer, and communication resources.

Compensation

The intern will be reimbursed at the end of each month (June, July, and August), for a total of up to $6,000 ($500/week) for the equivalent of 12 weeks (480 hours) of full-time activities. Candidates should expect to follow a normal weekday work schedule (roughly 9-5, M-F) with occasional variations for possible fieldwork or other activities. No benefits are provided. We help arrange local housing if the position is an in-person opportunity. A one-time housing and transportation allowance of $1,000 is available to each intern to assist with living and transportation expenses. Funds are also available to compensate interns for occasional work-related travel and professional development activities.

Diversity and Inclusion

The Chesapeake Research Consortium and EPA Chesapeake Bay Program are committed to supporting a diverse and inclusive science-oriented workforce. Our internship program endeavors to recruit from a diverse, qualified group of potential applicants to secure a high-performing workforce drawn from all segments of American society. CRC and CBP are strongly supportive of broadening the participation of historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, Tribal colleges and universities, and institutions that work in underserved areas. We highly encourage applications from students at any of the above institutions as well as students that identify as Black, Indigenous, persons of color, or 1st generation college students.

Application Instructions

Application instructions required materials, and the C-StREAM application portal can be found on the C-StREAM website (http://chesapeake.org/c-stream/).

The deadline for applications is February 21, 2022.