Chesapeake StREAM Internship
Environmental Justice Science Communication

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 Research Consortium (www.chesapeake.org) in collaboration with the Center for Coastal Resources Management (CCRM; https://www.vims.edu/ccrm) seeks an intern for late May through mid-August (12 weeks) to assist with a project that will optimize a science translation tool for community use. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in collaboration with the Elizabeth River Project non-profit, has created a tool specifically to help the Elizabeth River project bring Environmental Justice considerations into their planning efforts' https://elizabethriver.org/environmental-justice-mapping-tool/, which is key at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) whose mission is to conduct scientific research on resource management questions and support informed decision-making on issues at all levels of government, and private and corporate citizens.

The Elizabeth River project would like to optimize the tool for use by the local community to address their concerns. The intern will work with VIMS and coordinate with the Elizabeth River Project and community leaders to understand which aspects of the tool are most important for the community and what communication devices can be used to help the community optimize usage of the tool. Products may include the design of a dashboard, story maps, or instructional videos.

This project will address the communication of environmental concerns in a River Basin within the Chesapeake Bay to the communities that are most vulnerable to the environmental impact. The intern may also work on other VIMS science communication projects, such as rural community resilience tool training or community outreach. This is envisioned as a position at VIMS, in Gloucester Point, VA, but a remote internship is also a possibility.

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 allow students to make connections with established environmental management and science professionals.

Deliverables

- The intern will work with scientists, environmental advocates, and community liaisons.
- The intern will develop an understanding of how the community could use the ERP EJ tool (what data helps their needs? What format should it be in?)
- The intern will help expand the current tool to fit the needs of the community.
- The intern will gain experience in environmental justice principles, best practices for community engagement, and communication of environmental data.
- Presentation at SERC (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center) at the conclusion of the internship summarizing the experiences gained and work conducted.

Required Qualifications

- Interest in environmental science.
- Willingness to engage with diverse partners and reach out to new people.
- Experience with ArcGIS or community engagement is a plus.
- Motivated self-starter with the ability to work and reason independently.
- Be a college-level student entering sophomore, junior, or senior year of undergraduate study.
- Be a U.S. Citizen and be willing to undergo a security background check.

Work Location and Duration

We envision that this position will be an in-person position and will be based out of the VIMS location, in Gloucester Point, VA, but a remote internship is also a possibility. The position will begin in mid-May and conclude in mid-August and will be in place for 12 weeks. We plan on providing interns with access to a computer and email.

Compensation

The intern will receive a stipend at the end of each month, for a total of up to $6,000 for the equivalent of 12 weeks of full-time activities (422 Hours). Funds are available to compensate interns for occasional work-related travel and a one-time $1000 housing stipend will be available to support housing costs and related needs. If used, this stipend will show up on the intern's first check. 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.

Diversity and Inclusion

The Chesapeake Research Consortium is 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 is 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, person of color, or 1st generation** college student.

Application Instructions

Applicants are instructed to register with the Chesapeake Jobs online application website: https://chesapeake.org/c-stream/ to apply. You will be instructed to submit a resume detailing your education and work experience and a cover letter that details your interest in this position and describes how your skill set will contribute to the work described above, along with three references. **The deadline for applications is by midnight on January 28, 2024. The deadline for the Reference Form is by midnight February 4, 2024.**