

32. Examples of Past Internships and Student-Defined Goals

Neighborhood Development Alliance

Internship: Conduct a skills inventory assessment; assist with the strategic planning process and contractor training.

Student Goals: Improve communication skills (including Spanish language); improve leadership and assertiveness skills; gain grant-writing skills and experience with planning and organizing. Learn about community and economic development strategies, including tactics for involving community in decisions and activities; learn how public policy impacts community development and how to affect public policy. Learn about the complexities around affordable housing.

Plymouth Youth Center Alternative High School

Internship: Assist students in the classrooms; lend input to curriculum design; research how alumni of PYC have progressed since attending PYC.

Student Goals: To develop public speaking skills and comfort with leading classes. To learn about the effects of declining neighborhood conditions on youth and their outlook and future planning. To learn about barriers to success in the public school system.

Metropolitan Council

Internship: Research other regions' "vision plans" for containing urban sprawl and political and

legal resources in this context. Develop a matrix and produce a report that looks into the tools that might help to contain urban sprawl and channel development into the core region of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Provide feedback on a handbook for communicating regional policies and requirements to local units of government.

Student goals: Develop policy analysis skills; learn to mediate between various interest groups to create sensible policy; build upon organizational skills. Gain a broad knowledge of systems management (transit, waste, housing, jobs); learn about methods of containing urban sprawl; and learn about affordable housing issues.

Resource Center of the Americas (RCTA)

Internship: Assist with development of “The Many Faces of Mexico” course, includes doing profiles on various communities about changing populations of Hispanics/Mexicans/Mexican-Americans; advise with selection of six communities to be targeted for the workshop; contact community resources to assist with the project in their communities.

Student Goals: Improve communication skills; learn how a non-profit operates; gain knowledge of the global economy and issues of economic justice; increase knowledge of issues relating to South, Central and North America.

Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.

Internship: Draft a survey of exterior home conditions to assist in planning for rezoning and rehabilitation of housing; participate in neighborhood planning and development meetings.

Student Goals: To improve understanding of broader urban picture, especially housing issues. To learn how to be objective. To learn how an organization obtains money for low-interest housing loans. To learn about community politics and the steps needed for progressing on a community action plan.

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

Internship: Produce comprehensive country conditions research and reports; interview clients seeking asylum and help them to prepare for their cases.

Student Goals: To improve research, writing and communication skills. To become more aware of human rights violations occurring around the world and the U.S. role in aiding victims. To learn more about the rights of refugees and immigrants in the U.S. and to what extent their rights are being protected.

MN American Indian AIDS Task Force

Internship: Participate in peer education sessions; co-create curriculum and lectures on STDs and sexuality for Native teens; research resources for Native American Women's Peer Education Group.

Student Goals: Expand research skills; learn creative teaching skills and how to set up a curriculum; learn how to educate about human sexuality issues in a culturally appropriate manner.