Sustainable Connections Internship Program

www.AtlantaRegional.com/SustainableConnections

Overview and Vision

ARC's Sustainable Connections Internship program seeks to connect the wealth of talented university students in the region with local governments and nonprofits in need of sustainability programming assistance.

The internship program:

- Engages students in meaningful work with communities so that they can obtain hands-on experience and build relationships with local government, nonprofit and sustainability professionals.
- Connect students working toward sustainability careers with a network where they can share experiences and insights.
- Helps communities obtain assistance with sustainability initiatives that they may not otherwise have the time or resources to complete on their own.

Why Sustainable Connections?

Sustainable Connections goes beyond a traditional internship format by connecting interns with local governments and non-profit organizations, as well as with each other. Interns attend connection events throughout the semester where they share ideas, discuss readings relevant to community sustainability and hear from key regional sustainability leaders. These interactions help inform and energize their work with their respective communities and within their fields of study.

The Sustainable Connections Internship Program has been very beneficial to us as an economic development organization. Our talented intern has brought a fresh perspective to how we consider and promote sustainability locally as well as how we engage our business and civic partners.

– Misti Martin, President, Cherokee Office of Economic Development

Sustainability Projects:

Projects proposed by local governments and nonprofits may be focused on waste reduction and recycling, green building, energy efficiency, water conservation, air quality and transportation, land use, trees and greenspace, and employee and community education.

Projects undertaken by the 2016 – 2017 SCIP interns include:

- Inventorying sustainability initiatives
- Assiting with the development of a Green Infrastructure plan
- Monitoring stream health
- Educating the next generation about clean water
- Navigating green certification processes
- Aiding the implementation of a new greenway
- Developing a sustainability-focused strategic plan

Project Proposals

Through partnerships with metro Atlanta colleges and universities, the internship program runs concurrently with the academic year (August 2017 through May 2018), with the option to continue internships into the summer of 2018.

- Applicants must be a local government or nonprofit in the 10 county Atlanta region.
- Applicants must have a specific, clearly defined project, and there must be a clear role for an intern to assist with the project throughout the academic year.
- Applicants must describe the project, discuss how it relates to local goals and explain how its success would affect the community's environmental, social and economic health.
- Complete program guidelines may be found at www.atlantaregional.com/sustainableconnections

Proposals should be submitted online by **May 12, 2017.** For any questions, please contact Crystal Jackson, Principal Planner, ARC Center for Livable Communities Natural Resources Division, at cjackson@atlantaregional.com or 404.463.3261.

Intern Placement Process

Students meeting the minimum qualifications who submit a completed application package are evaluated based on their educational background, expertise and academic/professional goals relevant to the local government/nonprofit project proposals.

Well-qualified students are invited for a first-round, in-person interview with ARC staff.

Three frontrunners for each available internship position are invited for a final interview with their prospective local government/nonprofit match. The community sponsoring the internship then decides which intern candidate they would like to hire.

Once SCIP interns are selected, ARC hands-off the hiring and onboarding process to the sponsoring organizations. ARC staff remains involved as a resource for both the students and organizations, as well as coordinates regular "connecting" events during the academic year.

Important Dates

- **March 1, 2017–** Proposal Period Opens
- **May 12, 2017–** Proposal Deadline
- **June 2017 –** Interviews Conducted
- **July 17, 2017 –** Matches Notified
- **August 2017 –** Internship Begins (Concurrent with beginning of semester)
- **May 2018 – Internship Ends (**May be continued into summer if the intern and community agree)

Apply Online: www.AtlantaRegional.com/SustainableConnections