Spring 2014 Campus Sustainability Internship Opportunities

Sustainability Social Marketing and Outreach Intern

This intern would help create the brand of Whitman Campus Sustainability, as well as assist with scheduling and planning events, and social marketing and outreach campaigns. This student would work with campus clubs, community organizations, faculty, and campus offices. Organizational skills, communication and education experience, and community engagement are desired, as well as a passion for connecting with people.

Earth Week Event Coordinator

Earth Week is a crucial time for outreach about sustainability. A student’s perspective and knowledge about possible opportunities is essential to making relevant, enjoyable events with good attendance. This intern would work with WEB, faculty, staff, and potential outside organizations, speakers, or more. Characteristics this intern should have include being organized, creative, engaging, outgoing and an experience in event coordination and outreach. This intern and the Social Marketing intern would likely work together on some topics.

Recycling Bin Inventory and Observational Study

Whitman’s recycling bins lack clear labeling and consistency of design, leading to a lack of understanding about what is or is not recyclable or where types of waste belong. Because of this, Whitman currently diverts an estimated 25% of its waste. The goal of this internship is to thoroughly evaluate the current status, find weak points, learn from stronger performers, and investigate why people on campus do or do not recycle at certain locations or with certain types of bins. These data will provide a baseline that can be used to improve recycling diversion rates in the future. This intern must be thorough and have an understanding of study methodology and an attention to detail. This student would work with Recycling Center and janitorial staff, reach out to staff and faculty regarding their office recycling practices, and survey students about their observations to crowd-source data.

Publication Waste Reduction Intern

Similar and complimentary to the Recycling internship, this student will help campus publications like The Pioneer figure out the appropriate number of print copies needed in total and at each drop point on campus. Establishing means to encourage reuse and return of publications to their distribution points when finished is another goal. This intern must work with publication and recycling stakeholders, as well as survey and reach out to the campus community to solicit observations.

Car Sharing Feasibility Intern

Many students at Whitman bring cars to Walla Walla that they infrequently use. The typical car spends around 90% of its life parked and unused. Car sharing is a more efficient communal use of resources, and also often saves subscribers money compared to car ownership. The role of this intern is to evaluate whether a car sharing program would be a good fit for Whitman or Walla Walla at large. The final report should include an evaluation of need or potential use, recommendations of parking spots for the car share, the number and types of cars,
and more. This intern will need to research car sharing programs at similar colleges and universities, implement a new or utilize previous commuter data, and speak with students about their perspective on access to a car share program.

Expectations

All interns are expected to deliver a final report fitting to their task, laying out methods, observations, and recommendations for next steps, as well as a full list of resources and contacts for future references. Workload is equivalent to 4 hours a week for 1 credit. Reports will be kept by the Campus Sustainability Coordinator and published on the Whitman website with student permission. If taken for credit, the Environmental Studies department may have different requirements and handles grading. Speak with Prof. Amy Molitor.

Applying

Internships can be taken for credit via the Environmental Studies program. You do not need to be an Environmental Studies student. Please email Campus Sustainability Coordinator, Tristan Sewell with interest in any of these opportunities. To apply, please:

- Rank your top three picks;
- Tell why you are most interested in your first choice;
- Write about your previous relevant experiences;
- Describe what you have to gain from the internship;
- Compare your top pick to your following choices. Why is it #1?

If you have another idea for an internship, contact Campus Sustainability Coordinator Tristan Sewell to explore the idea and how to set it up. This list certainly is not exhaustive, so student proposals are welcome.