

ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Erie County Community Foundation 2016 Summer Internship Program

The “Summer Internship Program” recently completed its fourth successful year with five interns employed by Erie County non-profit organizations. The program is designed to provide paid work experience for area college students and to encourage them to return home to Erie County for permanent employment after graduation.

This 2016 summer internship program was made possible as the result of grants from the Sam S. and Rose Stein Foundation, the Wightman-Wieber Foundation, the Murray and Murray Charitable Foundation, the Randolph and Estelle Dorn Foundation, the Sidney Frohman Foundation, the George Mylander Foundation, the Kenneth and Rhonda Watt Donor Advised Fund, and The Erie County Community Foundation. Grants received totaled \$21,500.00. Add this amount to a carryover from 2015 of \$4,742.50 and this program will carryover \$5,286.62 for the 2017 program.

The internship committee selected five Erie County organizations as host sites. They were Ability Works, Inc., Goodwill Industries, Perkins Township Planning and Development Department, Sandusky Library and Follett House Museum, and Sandusky State Theatre. These host sites were each given two applicants which they then interviewed and made their final selection. The five interns were from two Erie County high schools and one was home schooled.

Goodwill Industries selected Ohio State student Abigail Spitler from Perkins Township as their intern. Abigail was responsible for a wide variety of assignments. She maintained four social media platforms and went on air with two radio interviews about her internship at Goodwill. She assisted with the employee wellness program, including designing promotional materials, tallying and communicating weekly results of the competitive walking program to all 10 Goodwill locations, writing health educational lessons, publishing a cookbook for 60 participants in our healthy eating program, and writing the summer issue of the employee newsletter. She assisted with retail store marketing signage and promotions, and with fund raising for a special event. For community outreach, she hosted 3 programs with a recycling activity for Boys and Girls Club and the Center for Cultural Awareness, as well as volunteering at the free Farmer’s Market at Zion Lutheran Church serving 400 residents.

Ability Works, Inc. selected Kent State University student Amber Hunter from Perkins Township as their intern. Amber coached her special needs students on job responsibilities and took them to local businesses to work on job sites. She took them to Humane Society of Erie County to fold laundry, Perkins Township Fire Department to wash trucks, and to Sam's Club to make pizza boxes and work in the bakery. She made out a lesson plan to conduct the "Skills to Pay Bills" program in which students were taught about bank accounts, financial budgets, and how to dress, act, and speak in an interview.

Perkins Township Planning and Development Department selected University of Michigan student Colette DeRiso of Sandusky as their intern. Colette did extensive investigation into existing land use studies for the corridor plans for State Routes 4 and 250. She computerized historic documents for Perkins Township that can be accessed alphabetically and by numeric address. She created reports for township trustees regarding nuisance updates that included excess trash and overgrown grass on properties. She worked with the youth in the Safety Town program that included water safety, crossing streets, and fire safety. Colette also assisted with community events such as movie night, the community garden, and the dog park.

Sandusky Library and Follett House Museum selected University of Florida student Darcy Schild of Perkins Township as their intern. At the Library, Darcy assisted with the summer reading program implementation and conducted activities for elementary students through high school age. She worked with special needs students in the computer and recording studios and set up different apps for the iMovies program. At the Follett House Museum, Darcy developed and assisted in the setup of their exhibit at the Erie County Fair. She inventoried the museum's archives and with those archives, created new exhibits titled "Miss America 1963 - Jackie Mayer", and ones highlighting the history of Sandusky Police and Fireman and Ice Harvesting on Lake Erie.

Sandusky State Theatre selected BGSU Firelands student Kierston Rospert of Collins as their intern. Kierston developed and implemented the "It's Our Turn Now" campaign, a donation strategy for current endowments. This included interviewing individuals and family members of past board members, significant donors, and key employees. She also researched the theatre's extensive archives to set up themed stations and tables for the VIP Backstage Tour and was able to locate family members from the original 1927 donor list for interviews of their memories of the origin of the Theatre.

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