MATE Center Update

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Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center
Internship Program Overview

- Started with a NSF UNOLS grant in 1999 to fill need for marine technicians; current funding ends after the 6-month internship in early 2014

- Since 1999, 280 community college and university students have been placed in research vessels, labs and industry settings (184 were placed on UNOLS vessels)

- Students demographics over the last 14 years
  - 46% women and 54% men
  - 30% underrepresented minority participation
  - From 59 colleges and universities
Internship Program Overview

- **NSF Grant for 2011-2014**
  - Host 12-16 interns in 2-16 week internships each summer; support to lengthen internships beyond one research cruise at each site
  - Host 1 six-month intern each year on 1-2 host vessels each year
- **Awaiting news from NSF on funding request for 2014-2017**
Intern selection process

- Preference (except for six-month internship) given to technical community college students and marine technology undergraduate students
  - 67% of 2013 interns were from community colleges
  - 33% of 2013 interns were from universities

- Interns’ interests, knowledge, and skills are carefully matched to mentor requirements
  - Mentor receives the 3-5 resumes that best match their needs
  - Mentor makes final decision on which student(s) they host
Selection for 6-month interns

- Alice Doyle at UNOLS and Tami Lunsford review applicants for marine technical qualifications and determine top 10-12 finalists

- Ad-hoc committee of RVTEC members review the finalists and score and rank them

- Top 5 candidates from this review are sent to the host(s) to interview, call references, and select
What the interns gain

- Job experience essential for employment—often the most important step
- Better understand the diversity of ocean careers
- Experience with cutting-edge technologies that are not available at their institutions
2013 Internships

- 1 long-term intern:
  - Arianna Johns on the Knorr, Walter Smith, Atlantis, and E/V Nautilus
- 10 other interns were placed on UNOLS and USCG vessels
  - R/V Langseth (3), Blue Heron (1), Sharp (2), Thompson (1), and USCG Healy (1)
- 2 placed on the E/V Nautilus
- 4 women, 7 men
Mentor feedback on 2013 interns

100% of mentors said:
- They would hire another MATE intern in the future
- They were satisfied with the process of hiring and intern and the support received by MATE
- The intern developed skills that increased their chances of employment in the field

80% of mentors said they would hire their intern immediately in an entry-level position.
2013 UNOLS mentors said:

• “Our intern was very responsible while working on deck with the different types of gear used during our surveys.”

• “Because our intern was willing and able to do some of the routine work that often requires more than one person at a time, we could efficiently do cable runs and equipment maintenance that helped us to be ready for our cruise and ease the pressure on the rest of us.”
100% of interns said:

- The internship prepared them for future jobs in marine technology
- The internship was a valuable learning experience
- Their mentor served as a professional role model for them—WELL DONE!
- They have increased confidence in working on technical & scientific problems
- They enjoyed working at sea (sixth year in a row!)
2013 UNOLS interns said:

- “I learned personal safety, how to deploy and retrieve scientific instruments, and most importantly, my mentor taught me how to be a leader and apply my skills to my situations.”

- “I learned the value that a technician has when being a liaison between the scientific party and the ship’s crew.”

- “My mentors taught me everything I needed to learn. They were extremely communicative and patient. I learned both actively by discussion and assistance, and passively from watching the way the crew worked.”
Students getting hired!

- Although no interns were hired full-time yet in 2013, 5 have reported possible job opportunities that have become available because of their internships.
Other accomplishments in 2013

- Used a new application and host request form, created in 2012 based on input from RVTEC and to create a more host-friendly application review format with much success
- Brought Erica Moulton on board in an official capacity as Tami is now working in a high school classroom again
What is happening in 2014?

- The 2014 six-month internship has been posted and we are accepting applications through December 5.

- **Hosts:** *R/V Thompson* and *R/V Kilo Moana* beginning in January 2014.

- We have applied for continued funding and anticipate finding out by February if we will be able to host interns in 2014-2017.
Are you a community college student transitioning to a 4 year college? Check out this webinar on how to make the transition with an ocean science career in mind! Thursday, January 31st at 7 p.m. Eastern time for a short presentation followed by a Question & Answer period. Pre-registration is requested. Please sign up and pre-share your questions with us at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KLDW3XY

Pathways to Marine Science Careers Survey

www.surveymonkey.com
1. Please commit to providing internship opportunities as soon as possible and consider longer multi-cruise internships.

2. Use the internship to promote marine technical careers– you are great mentors and role models. THANK YOU!
For more information visit:  
www.marinetech.org/internships

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