MATE Internship Program 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 till 2017.

• Since 1999, 290 community college and university students have been placed in research vessels, labs and industry settings (almost 200 were placed on UNOLS vessels)

• Students demographics over the last 15 years
  • 45% women and 55% men
  • 30% underrepresented minority participation
  • From 62 colleges and universities
Internship Program Overview

• New grant from NSF for 2014-2017

• NSF Grant for 2014-2017
  • Host 12-15 interns in 2-16 week internships each summer; support to lengthen internships beyond one research cruise at each site
  • Host 1 six-month intern on 1-2 host vessels each year
Intern selection process

- Preference (except for six-month internship) given to technical community college students and marine technology undergraduate students
  - 2014 Summer: 10 internships
  - 3 internships were offered to community college students; 1 accepted

- 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 Nandita & Tami at MATE 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
2014 Internships

- 1 long-term intern:
  - Nick Matthews on the *R/V Thompson, R/V Kilo Moana, R/V Kanaloa, R/V Knorr, and R/V Atlantic Explorer.*

- 10 other interns were placed on UNOLS and USCG Vessels
  - *R/V Knorr (2), Sharp (2), Thompson (1), Oceanus (2), Savannah (1), Pt. Sur (1) and USCG Healy (2)*

- 2 women, 9 men
Mentor feedback on 2014 interns

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

- 87% of mentors said they would hire their intern immediately in an entry-level position.
2014 UNOLS mentors said:

• “Great intern. Wish we could've used him longer.”

• “I hope that the MATE internship program continues to receive funding. It is a superb way to introduce young (and sometimes older) people to many aspects of sea-going oceanography. It also makes it easier for scientists and ship operators to carry out sea-going research. Kudos to everyone for making this program such a success.”
Student post-internship survey results

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 scientific problems
- They enjoyed working at sea

80% of interns said:
- They have increased confidence in working on technological problems
2014 UNOLS interns said:

- “I learned a lot more than originally expected in different subjects.”

- “I didn't expect to be using so much cool technology.”

- “I thought I would be involved less in the ship's operation and maintenance. I'm glad I had a chance to help the engineers and crew.”
Students getting hired!

Nick Matthews, our 2014 long-term intern, has been accepted as a Marine Technician at Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences.
Other accomplishments in 2014

- Awarded an NSF grant to continue funding for the MATE Internship Program for 2014-2017.

- Brought Nandita Sarkar on board in an official capacity as Tami is now working in a high school classroom again.
What is happening in 2015?

- The 2015 six-month internship will be posted soon and we are accepting applications through early Jan.

- **Host: R/V Oceanus** beginning in March 2015.
Same requests as every year!

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

Or contact:
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