MATE Internship Program Update

RVTEC Meeting, Duluth, MN, Oct 25, 2017

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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 May 2018. (including 1 year no-cost extension).

- Since 1999, 300+ community college and university students have been placed in research vessels, labs and industry settings (200+ were placed on UNOLS vessels).

- **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

- Interns’ interests, knowledge, and skills are carefully matched to mentor requirements
  - Summer internships - Mentor receives the 3-5 resumes that best match their needs
  - LT internship - Alice Doyle at UNOLS and Nandita at MATE review applicants and determine top 10-12 finalists
  - Mentor(s) are encouraged to interview candidates
  - Mentor makes final decision on which student(s) they host
  - Nandita checks references, makes offer, takes care of paperwork and travel logistics

- Preference (except for six-month internship) given to technical community college students and marine technology undergraduate students
What the community gains

Mentors/Hosts:
• An extra pair of hands - almost free!
• Direct involvement in training the next generation of marine technicians
• A sneak preview of the best graduates from marine technology programs for hiring!

Interns:
• 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
2017 Internships

- 1 long-term intern: Amanda Dostie with LUMCON and BIOS
- 8 other interns were placed on UNOLS/USCG vessels: Sharp (1), Healy (3), Atlantis (1), Walton Smith (2), Neil Armstrong (1)
- 3 women, 6 men
- 3 from community colleges
2017 Accomplishments

- Interns getting hired – Lauren Kowalski (R/V Neil Armstrong) hired into the Tech Pool and accepted to USCG.
- Past interns moving up the career ladder.
- Past Intern Career Path survey launched.
- New grant proposal submitted to NSF for 2018-2021
  - Additional funding to bring 1 or more interns to the RVTEC annual meeting
  - Additional funding for housing/hotel for summer interns
What is happening in 2018?

- Preparing for 2018 LT internship – please contact Nandita Sarkar (MATE) or Alice Doyle (UNOLS) if you would like to host an intern for 2-3 months in Winter 2017 or Spring 2018.

- Surveying past interns on the effect of the internship on their career paths.
  - Please talk to me if you are a past intern and have not been contacted about the survey!

- New proposal hopefully funded and ready to roll in Spring 2018.
Same requests as every year!

1. Please complete post-internship mentor surveys as soon as possible.

2. Please commit to providing internship opportunities as soon as possible and consider longer multi-cruise internships.

3. 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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