In addition to being the bicentennial year for SUNY Potsdam, it’s also been a historic year for the Experiential Education office. This February, SUNY Potsdam celebrated the opening of the Center for Applied Learning, the first of its kind in the SUNY system! At the Grand Opening President Esterberg announced that the Center had just been awarded a $750,000 grant from SUNY system to further our work in applied learning.

There were 470 interns in 2015-2016. To celebrate everyone’s hard work we will be hosting the Second Annual Academic Internship Reception on May 11, 2016 from 4PM-5:30PM in Thatcher Hall. This year we will be starting a new tradition for the Reception of featuring a different department each year. This year’s featured department is Music Business, and our honored faculty member is department head, Carol “Kickie” Britt, and our honored student intern is senior Jack Dring (see the Student Spotlight article for more!). We hope you will join us in celebrating all the hard work our sites, interns, and faculty have put in this year!
On Wednesday, February 3, 2016, the Center for Applied Learning celebrated its grand opening. Guests included President Esterberg, SUNY Director of Applied Learning Elise Newkirk, and Associate Vice Chancellor Enrollment Management and Student Success, Paul Marthers. The Center was made possible thanks to a generous endowment from Joy ‘58 and Richard Dorf.

At the ceremony, President Esterberg announced that Center had been awarded a $750,000 grant from the SUNY system to further SUNY Potsdam’s work in applied learning offerings.
This winter, SUNY Potsdam’s Center for Applied Learning was excited to announce a new collaboration between the International Education Office and the Experiential Education Office to allow students to pursue international internships. On behalf of the SUNY System, SUNY Potsdam has begun a relationship with Global Experiences, a company with internship placements in Barcelona, Dublin, Florence, London, NYC, Paris, Sydney, Milan, Shanghai, and Washington DC. Internships are available in architecture, fashion, computer science, and more! In addition to the guaranteed internship placement, students are also offered language classes in non-English speaking countries, housing with other students, social events, career guidance/counseling, and international mobile phones.

Students must have at least a 2.75 GPA, be at a junior or senior status and must have their application approved by both SUNY Potsdam and Global Experiences in order to participate. The Summer session is 8-10 weeks for 6 credits, and the Fall and Spring programs are 12-15 weeks for 12 credits. Although the deadline has passed for the Summer and Fall 2016 programs, the application for Spring 2017 is due October 31st. Reach out to the Center for Applied Learning for an appointment to learn more and with any questions.

Global Experiences Webinar Winner

In early February, Global Experiences hosted a webinar for SUNY Potsdam students to let them know about all the opportunities available to them through the program and how to take advantage of them. All students in attendance were told to listen for a code word at the end of the webinar, which they could use to enter a raffle for a chance to win a $100 Visa giftcard.

Daril Turnbull was the lucky winner of the raffle and plans on going to London in Fall 2016 through Global Experiences to pursue an internship in the field of criminal justice!
This February and March, Toby and Melanie visited 68 classes to talk to students about the internship opportunities available through the Experiential Education Office and how to make an internship work with your college plan. Thanks again to all the professors who allowed us to use some of their class time!

Even with all those presentations we still managed to fit in 133 appointments by the semester midpoint! We love being busy, so keep coming in to talk to us about your internship ideas.

Fall 2015 was a busy semester with 193 student interns, up 9 interns from Fall 2014. Spring 2016 has followed suit with 191 interns, up 23 interns from Spring 2015!

Keep in mind that if you are looking at doing a summer internship for at least 6 credits, there is over $12,000 in scholarships available to help you with tuition costs.

Go to: Forms on the EEO website to find the applications. Some are major restricted, but others are available to all students.

The applications, along with your online learning agreement and internship proposal, are due by Friday, May 6, 2016.
Faculty Spotlight: Jan Trybula

Professor Jan Trybula from the Biology department is a frequent faculty sponsor.

1. Why do you think internships are important for undergraduate students?
I think that internships are important because they let the student have a controlled, but real world experience in their chosen field. This may reinforce their drive for this career path; or they may realize that career path may not be what they had envisioned. Both of these results are important for students to have, particularly the latter, before students commit themselves too deeply to a path.

2. Why do you sponsor student interns?
I sponsor interns to let them have the above experiences. It is extremely helpful for someone to guide and anchor the student as they experience their internship. I had a wonderful internship experience as a graduate student that took me to San Francisco and the California Academy of Sciences. An internship is an amazing experience.

3. What advice do you have for students looking to intern?
My advice to students looking for an internship is to be bold. Apply for the most challenging internship in your field that they can find. You never know who you are until you test yourself and your drive. Also, go someplace that you wouldn’t ordinarily go, whether that is out of state or out of the country.

Student Spotlight: Jack Dring

Jack Dring is a senior music business major who completed an internship with the Yamaha Corporation during the 2015/2016 NAMM shows in LA.

1. What were the highlights of your internship?
The highlight of my internship was without a doubt the opportunity to experience the team dynamic of the largest company in the music products industry as they prepared for their single largest event of the year. As an aspiring undergraduate nearing the end of my degree, the thought of making the transition from student to young professional can be daunting so it was reassuring to see that the entire Yamaha staff philosophy was far more family oriented in style than one might have expected.

2. What did you learn from the internship?
During the course of working the show, one thing became apparent. The show was as much about the networking opportunity as it was about raw sales figures. It is the only opportunity in the year when so many manufacturers, (many of whom are the leading companies in their fields) come together under one roof for an entire week. The coffee breaks and lunchtime meetings were as much, if not more a part of the business proceedings as the sales figures. Even as a student intern, the connections that I made in terms of future internship possibilities and mentorship opportunities were truly unmatched by any other situation I have found myself in.

3. Did you feel it was worth your time?
Absolutely so. Overall, the internship experience offers an unparalleled insight into the 'real' world - in my case the music products industry. You experience the pace of business, the sheer quantity of variety and innovation present and most importantly, the network-centric way in which the world of business operates. For graduating students, it offered invaluable exposure to potential employers and internship opportunities along with developing a very current knowledge of the direction of and trends within your chosen field.

4. Would you recommend other students do an internship?
Yes!!!!

Written and Created by Melanie Shank
Some new internship resources have recently popped up. InternShop is the new partnership between the SUNY system and the New York Better Business Bureau. By submitting an application form, including a résumé and personal statement, SUNY students can be matched with a relevant internship in the career field and location of their choosing. Internships through the site are paid and interns are guaranteed a job interview upon completion. At the moment, this site is mostly geared towards business and computer science majors, but keep checking back!

A great networking tool, Buzzfile is a resource that allows student to learn about potential employers with lists by majors and location.

Dream Careers provides students with guaranteed internship places internationally and within the US. The fee also includes housing, transportation, social events, career advising and more!

If you’ve done an internship this spring, you know all about the new online learning agreement process, and after working out a few kinks, the response has been overwhelmingly positive! It is now much easier to track and complete your forms, and all approvals are done via email.

In a further attempt to go paperless, the Center for Applied Learning will be introducing a student swipe intake system, similar to the one used at the Student Health Center, in Fall 2016. This system will eliminate paper intake forms and streamline the appointment process!

Contact

Office: Crumb 107
Hours: Monday- Friday
8:30AM- 4:30PM
www.potsdam.edu/eeo

For an appointment stop by our office in Crumb or call:
Annie Butterfield
315-267-2507
eeo@potsdam.edu

Email an internship counselor!
Toby White, Director:
whitetj@potsdam.edu

Melanie Shank, Graduate Assistant:
shankml@potsdam.edu

Starting in Fall 2016 you will be able to check in to the Center for Applied Learning using a new swipe card system instead of paper intake forms.