Internships are the traditional heart of experiential education and applied learning. Academic internships at SUNY Potsdam allow students to earn up to 12 upper division credits towards the 45 required for a Bachelor’s degree. They get great real world experience for their résumés, and can try out their selected career field to see if this is the career path they will take in the future. And finally, they begin to build the network of career professionals in their desired field that will be so critical to their future successes.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

- **$693,280** in total labor provided by unpaid academic internships
- **$260,960** in labor in provided in St. Lawrence County

Toby White, The director of the Experiential Education Office, implemented a number of new programs and opportunities for students at SUNY Potsdam, which include:

- Awarded over **$15,500** in scholarships to 18 students
- Established new website with 40 new internship sites in NYC
- Worked with high schools from NYC to provide Mentoring internships
- Worked with CFES, Gear-Up Grant, and Malone Middle school to establish student mentoring program
- Met with Fort Drum Military to establish relations with SUNY Potsdam in Applied Learning
- Planned for a (COVID-19 delayed) InternBridge workshop with St. Lawrence County Chamber
- Updated to new Gradleaders database for Spring 2020 internship tracking and evaluation
- Started planning for a new Arts and Sciences Co-Op program with the ARC
- Served as Faculty Sponsor for 13 students for Music Business Practicums.

In addition, Toby White wrote and implemented Internship Guidelines for completing academic internships that were impacted by COVID-19. We are extremely proud of the work Toby did to ensure that our students had the best possible experience in an extremely difficult semester.
We collaborated with regional police agencies to teach their hired officers, and in return these agencies are sending their instructors to help teach our cadets.

Federal, State, and local police agencies sent multiple instructors to teach at our police academy, exposing our cadets to multijurisdictional instructors.

We put two SUNY Potsdam University Police Officers through both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of their training in the LETI with our state-of-the-art equipment and focus on responsible community-based policing. Both officers are now on patrol on campus.

We held multiple in-service defensive tactics training for Malone, Potsdam and Tupper Lake Police Departments.

This year, the LETI experimented with different instruction models.

- Building on our investment in the Firearms Simulator, we became the first police academy in New York State to implement Stress Vests for Reality Based Training. Our cadets absolutely loved this applied learning component which will make them so much better in the field of law enforcement.

As a result of this high-quality experiential education, our graduating Cadets have been hired at multiple Federal, State, County, City, Town and Village law enforcement agencies as well as private colleges as campus security officers. Our cadets are spread out throughout the country, bringing their excellent SUNY Potsdam education to new communities.

LETI Cadet Class of Fall 2019
Service-learning is a credit-bearing, educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.


317 students enrolled in service learning courses in 2019-2020 academic year. 16 faculty taught 23 different sections of 19 service learning courses.

Those courses included:
EDLS 201: Principles of Education
GEOL 125: Earth Systems
OVS 465: Field Service Abroad
POLS 289: Approaching Political Puzzles
SOCI 105: Introduction to Social Justice
SOCI 305: Sociology of the Family
WILD 350: Wilderness Adventure and Program Planning
and more!

ECONOMIC IMPACT

$53,256 in total labor provided by service learning courses

In addition to these courses, Dr. David Bugg, Service Learning Coordinator:
- Developed new service-learning courses as part of our involvement with the GearUp Grant-funded mentoring program with Malone Central School District. The project began in Spring 2020 with five faculty members and five sections of students mentoring an estimated 180 8th graders from Malone Middle School.
- Developed a series of alternate plans to allow for service learning to continue in the event of quarantine or social distancing, as only half of the spring semester’s placements were possible on-site, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic remains unpredictable.

The following faculty developed new service-learning courses for 2019-2020:
SECD 370: Teaching Math in Middle School, Dr. Peter Brouwer
POLS 361: Bioethics, Dr. Daniel Lempert
GEOL 125: Earth Systems, Dr. Page Quinton
SOCI 390: Sociology of Mental Illness, Dr. Leandra Smollin
SOCI 395: Criminalization of Mental Illness, Dr. Nancy Lewis