UNH Sustainability Internship Program (SIP): Responding to Global Challenges Today by Mentoring the Leaders of Tomorrow

Launching this semester, UNH’s new Sustainability Internship Program (SIP) is connecting UNH’s talented students with organizations advancing sustainability throughout New Hampshire and beyond.

Through SIP, students will gain valuable work experience in which they can apply the knowledge and ideas they are gaining in their studies to benefit businesses, government agencies, and non-profits advancing sustainability. By providing internship, organizations are investing in the future – helping to solve their own sustainability challenges while giving UNH students the experience they need to grow. The spring 2009 semester will see SIP students interning at organizations like Pax World Investing, the Mount Washington Resort, and Clean Air - Cool Planet.

In addition to their internship duties, SIP students will participate in outside-the-classroom learning about sustainability: meeting to discuss readings, films, or podcasts, listening to guest speakers with expertise in sustainability, and participating in sustainability events on campus. Students will be required to blog about what they are learning and doing on the UNH Career Center blog (unhcareercenter.com), and will be encouraged to work with their internship sites and participate UNH’s Undergraduate Research Conference. “Our students can be the next great generation of leaders if they have opportunities to apply what they are learning in the classroom to real world issues,” says Jason Whitney, internship coordinator at the UNH Advising & Career Center. “They want to make a difference and can help their internship sites meet challenges and achieve goals for a more sustainable organization.”

Learn more about SIP at sustainableunh.unh.edu/internship.html.

According to Dr. Ross Gittell of the UNH Whittemore School of Business and Economics, “green industry” jobs make up 3.2% of New Hampshire’s workforce – and could grow with investments in alternative energy, transportation, and related technologies.

Tip of the Month
Intern - or host one!

UNH students can apply for SIP internships by logging in to Wildcat Careers (www.myinterface.com/unh/student/) and searching for SIP. Employers can upload SIP internship opportunities at www.unh.edu/uacc/formpages/internshipling2.htm. Questions? Contact Jason Whitney in the UNH Advising & Career Center at 862-4136 or jason.whitney@unh.edu.

sustainableunh.unh.edu
Profile in Sustainability

David Gillum, Assistant Director, Office of Environmental Health & Safety

Why are environmental health and safety issues so important to sustainability?

The protection of human health and the environment is one of the most important ways to be sustainable – so important that there is a federal law requiring us to reduce the volume and toxicity of our hazardous wastes and to minimize the present and future threat to human health and the environment. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety helps UNH achieve these goals by promoting proper management and disposal of these wastes and looking at ways to minimize their impact on human health and the environment.

How can faculty, staff and students help ensure a safe and healthy environment?

It is important for everyone to consider their impact on human health and the environment in everything we do. Researchers can exchange highly hazardous chemicals for less hazardous chemicals in experiments. We can install more efficient chemical fume hoods in our laboratories and more efficient lighting in our buildings. We can not litter or dump materials into stormwater systems, recycle and reduce the consumption of non-recyclable products, reuse items rather than buy new, and give used items to charities.

What motivates you personally to be involved in sustainability?

I grew up about 100 miles from Yucca Mountain, the proposed nuclear waste dump, and the Nevada Test Site. In my town, people would take their trash to an unlined hole in the ground, which would sometimes catch fire – an environmental catastrophe waiting to happen. Knowing how important water is in the high desert, I was always astonished that no one seemed to care if the dump was leaching into our water supply. When I moved to Las Vegas for college, I learned that the water intake for the city was just upstream from the sewage discharge into Lake Mead. From these and many other experiences I knew that sustainability and the protection of the environment was in my future.

Learn more about environmental health and safety at UNH by visiting unh.edu/ehs.

RecycleMania!

Until March 28, UNH is competing against 492 colleges and universities nationwide to see which can recycle the most and send the least to landfill. Print and take only what you need, and recycle paper, cans, bottles, and more to help UNH win! Learn more at sustainableunh.unh.edu/wastemanagement.html.

Upcoming Events

January 18 - March 28
RecycleMania!
Join UNH faculty, staff & students in helping UNH win this waste minimization and recycling competition!

Contact: Joyce Massicotte, 862-1634, joyce.massicotte@unh.edu, or sustainableunh.unh.edu/wastemanagement.html

January 29 - May 7
Sustainability Speaker Series
Thursdays, 4 - 5 PM
240 DeMeritt Hall, UNH Durham
Open to the public

Contact: unh.edu/nressphd

February 7 & March 7
Winter Farmers Markets
10 AM - 2 PM
Exeter, then Stratham, NH

Contact: seacoasteatlocal.org/holidaymarkets.html

February 19 & April 16
Cultural Excursions to the BSO
Experience live open rehearsals
$40/person, includes one performance ticket and round trip bus transportation from Durham to Boston.

Contact: sustainableunh.unh.edu/culture_sust/projects.html#CulturalExcursions

Spring Semester
“The Growing Divide” A University-wide Dialogue on Poverty and Opportunity
UNH Discovery Program

Contact: unh.edu/academic-affairs/discovery/dialogue/index.html

April 1
Mark Winne: Closing the Food Gap
4:00 PM
UNH MUB Theater II

Contact: unh.edu/academic-affairs/discovery/dialogue/2008/events_d.html

Since 1997, the University Office of Sustainability (UOS) – the oldest endowed sustainability program in higher education in the U.S. – has been transforming UNH into a Sustainable Learning Community:

A land grant, sea grant, and space grant university that unites the spirit of discovery with the challenge of sustainability across its curriculum, operations, research and engagement (CORE) through four initiatives designed around four key systems that underpin our ability to define and pursue quality of life – biodiversity, climate, food, and culture.

Discover sustainability at UNH.

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