

BMCC Students Boast about Gained Experiences through Internship Opportunities



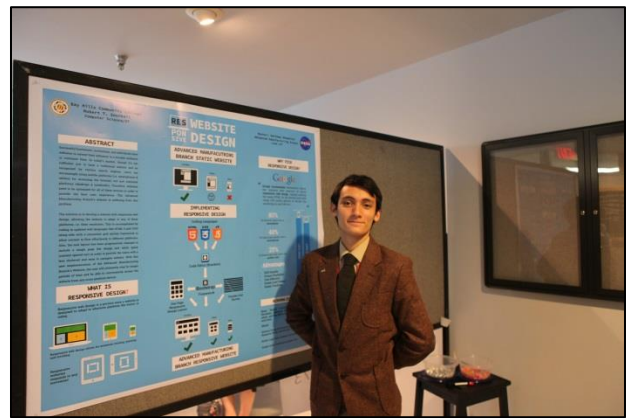
This summer, a variety of internships were held by BMCC students, at both local and national levels. Internships provide students with first-hand experience in the field, beyond what can be learned in the classroom. Interns have the opportunity to network with professionals in their field for references and future job options, experience a prospective career path, gain practical experience by applying methods and theories learned in classes, develop new skills, and in the following cases earn money.

Jacob Baker and Devon Wilson are developing and maintaining an anaerobic digester, used to create methane power from compost waste at BMCC. Wilson (pictured left) is also working on solid waste management issues with Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (Sault Ste. Marie).

On a different project, students Amanda Shea and Alisha Hamelin spent 5 weeks collecting local fish and environmental samples and 5 weeks analyzing those samples for selenium, fatty acids, and mercury in Pablo, Montana. Selenium and fatty acids are both considered to have nutritional benefits, while mercury is thought to be a neurotoxin when ingested in high doses. This project was made available through a partnership between BMCC and Salish Kootenai College, a Tribal College located on the Flathead Reservation. This internship is the first of its kind, pairing two tribal colleges across the nation to look into nutrients and toxic chemicals in traditional foods. In pictures below Hamelin (left) can be seen weighing environmental samples, while Shea (right) is loading samples onto a mercury analyzer.



BMCC was even represented this summer at NASA. Robert Southall worked on computer information systems at Goddard Space Station in Greenbelt, Maryland. Southall describes his time there, "I worked in the Advanced Manufacturing Branch as a web design/graphic design intern. My tasks throughout my ten weeks at NASA were to overhaul their website and multiple other side projects relating to graphic design." Southall is pictured right, next to a poster describing his project.



Most recently, BMCC has teamed up with Dartmouth University to understand the dynamics between traditional culture and nuisance invasive plant species. Jamie LeBlanc, of Bay Mills, is learning interview techniques required to investigate these outlooks.

Funding for these projects include the US Environmental Protection Agency, National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Native American Research Center for Health, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and US Department of Agriculture.

Past experiences include other projects with Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, and Sault Tribe Inland Fish and Wildlife Department, and Bay Mills Biology Department. BMCC: Learn. Discover. Lead.