



James Madison University Non-Profit Studies

Spring 2021 Internship Experiences

Alex Brito:

Spring semester of my senior year I interned at Chesterfield Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE). I specifically chose this organization because of how relatable it was to my Health Sciences Administration studies and relate a lot of the concepts taught in the nonprofits minor. My role included being a youth advisor, creating nutritional content, and designing graphics for programs across the organization. VCE is an amazing organization that really highlights the importance of a community. The team supported my personal growth and my impact as a team member. I am grateful for the amazing opportunity. I highly recommend VCE for students who are applying for internships. There was much to learn from the organization.

Sarah Conner:

At the Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA I was able to fulfill my passion for helping better the world around me. I combined what I learned in my major courses and my Nonprofit Studies Minor courses and simultaneously implemented them both. I developed a relationship with an international organization and gained credibility and a new reference who can testify to my capabilities. I learned new things through hands-on experiences to further my development as an individual and within my field while advancing professional and interpersonal skills. I can confidently go into the nonprofit sector knowing that I understand how to successfully work in that environment

Haley Graybush:

I had the opportunity to intern at Generations Crossing. The organization and its staff were very understanding and able to help me work through the challenges brought about by COVID-19. Over the semester I worked on a wide range of activities and tasks to assist the organization. The major project was creating The Great Community Give web page. I was able to work on certain elements of my professional development while learning more about the nonprofit sector. I experienced firsthand all that goes into operating and maintaining a nonprofit. I learned more about myself and my capabilities. I have grown to be more confident and independent, and I truly believe that this is a career path that I want to continue to pursue.

Gabriela Leija-Hernandez:

I embarked on a virtual internship journey at Chesterfield Cooperative Extension. Chesterfield Cooperative Extension adapted to the challenges of the pandemic. As I help youth plan and start their own advocacy work, I was amazed at how receptive youth are to serious topics. I enjoyed the idea of youth being so inspired, interested, and in charge. I was part of a process of learning from the youth in ways I hadn't even anticipated. The work I did is going to help me grow in my career path. I have a love for advocacy work and being able to work with youth was unique, beneficial, and special. It was such a useful and incredible experience.

Shay Steinkirchner:

I completed an internship with United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County (UWHR). Going into the internship, I knew I was getting into something that was outside of my comfort zone and was excited to take on the challenge. I gained new skills, opinions, professionalism, and insights about nonprofit functions. My interactions and relationships at the internship made my experiences at United Way impactful and meaningful, giving me a greater sense of responsibility. It allowed me to apply concepts learned in class, including collaboration, fundraising, and communication. My intern experience gave me great insight into the nonprofit sector and opened my mind to new ideas and opinions that will guide my future.