INTERN RECEPTION

The day is almost here where celebrate you our interns. We are happy to host this event at the Governor’s Executive Mansion. This is a rare opportunity to be able to walk freely around the first floor of this historic home. I look forward to seeing you at the Executive Mansion in downtown Raleigh on Wednesday, July 13, from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. You and your supervisor have received evites, and you must RSVP.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

There are only two more enrichment activities this summer. Please do not forget to RSVP to Candace Dudley if you will be attending.

Annual Intern Reception
Wednesday, July 13
Executive Mansion
Raleigh
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Central Region Enrichment Activity
Wednesday, July 27
Office of State Human Resources
Raleigh
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
INTERN SPOTLIGHTS

Blake Brewer
From Danielle Albert, Supervisor

Blake Brewer, a rising senior at Catawba College in Salisbury, serves as one of the interns in the Office of the Lt. Governor. In Blake's role, his day-to-day activities vary greatly. However, one of his major projects this summer is serving as a staff lead on the Hispanic Education Outreach Task Force commissioned by the Lt. Governor. His duties as a staff lead primarily involve research and serving as a resource to the group itself. Additionally, Blake's responsibilities include handling a variety of constituent concerns, responding to official correspondence, and assisting in hosting events at our office. When not tending to office business and projects, Blake is able to attend session with the Lt. Governor, sit in on various meetings, and meet legislators and other staff.

After his internship, Blake will be back in Salisbury finishing his major in politics in order to graduate this spring. When not studying, Blake is very active in campus leadership, serving as Student Body President and as the Vice President of Events for the Dead Athenian Society, in addition to many other roles. All of us here at the Lt. Governor's Office are thankful for his service and grateful to the NCYAIO for providing opportunities to college students.

Pierce Lawrence
From Lori Davis, Supervisor

Pierce Lawrence is currently interning with DEQ's Coastal Reserve program as an education intern in their Beaufort office. Over the course of the summer, he has been assisting with summer camps and other public programs that are designed to educate participants about one of North Carolina's greatest ecosystems, estuaries. He has spent hours trekking through the mud on the Rachel Carson Reserve to teach budding scientists about marsh plants, fiddler crabs, and various other components and functions of our valuable estuarine ecosystems. In addition to exploring the Reserve, Pierce has led activities in the classroom, including showing students plankton under a microscope, entertaining preschoolers during morning story time, and demonstrating a squid dissection. Since day one, Pierce has done a terrific job at leading educational field trips and developing projects designed for K-12 students. It's safe to say that he is well-suited for a future career in the environmental field.

Daniel Hertzberg
From Katherine Mitchell, Supervisor

What's the buzz at the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island? Daniel Hertzberg has joined the team this summer to help kick-start our Pollinator Conservation Citizen Science Project.

Daniel is the buzz at the Aquarium on Roanoke Island.

Dan is a rising senior at UNCW. Since arriving in Manteo last month, he has recorded 182 observations of pollinators visiting flowers in our wildflower meadow, rain garden and plant nursery. He has researched and
identified 42 new species for our database that tracks pollinator use of the native plants on the Aquarium’s grounds.

Dan helped us celebrate National Pollinator Week (June 20 - June 24) with pollinator-themed displays and family activities at the wildflower meadow, as well as inside the Aquarium. He continues to promote better understanding of these amazing creatures by encouraging visitors to participate in our citizen science project. The project asks visitors to photograph bees, butterflies, and other insects in the wildflower meadow and share them with us via Instagram and Facebook.

While exploring the many different aspects of horticulture at the Aquarium, Dan pitched in to get the Wetlands exhibit plantings ready for the “Sneak Peek” re-opening on June 11. He’s also getting his hands dirty by planting, weeding, mulching, and irrigating the wildflower meadow with harvested rainwater.

Dan’s work during this internship will be a valuable contribution to pollinator conservation efforts and will help to ensure that native plant habitat for pollinators and other wildlife continues to thrive at the NC Aquarium.

Elisabeth Panto, a rising Senior at Appalachian State University, is our YAIO intern in the Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Lab. Her project is a new and exciting collaboration between our lab and the Museum’s Multimedia Group (she is co-supervised by Eric Knisley, Science Visualization Analyst), and focuses on creating 3D models of the Museum’s meteorite specimens, most of which have been found in North Carolina. Meteorites are the oldest material we have from the Solar System’s formation about 4.75 billion years ago, and as such are extremely valuable to scientists studying the earliest stages of our planet’s origin. The new 3D models generated by this project will be made available to meteorite researchers anywhere in the world via our website, where they will be able to navigate and zoom over the specimens, examining their detailed surface features. Samples of interest can then be potentially explored further via direct loan from the collection.

Elisabeth has been doing a fantastic job mastering all aspects of this project, and one has been an enthusiastic and productive member of our team this summer!