The Cornell Cooperative Extension Student Initiated Internship  
2013 Program

Internship Overview:
Offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension and The CALS NYS Internship Program, The Student Initiated Internship is based on the premise that: (1) communities and motivated, college-educated, young adults can benefit one another by working together to address a community’s challenges and opportunities; and (2) this benefit can be enhanced with support from Cornell University faculty and Cornell Cooperative Extension educators. The internship provides CALS sophomores and juniors with an opportunity to gain career-related work experience while providing communities with an opportunity to work with a well-trained, enthusiastic young person to tackle problems or pursue an opportunity. The intern will consult with a community to design a project of benefit to the community and will work with community members, Cornell Cooperative Extension staff and a faculty mentor to implement the project. The intern will receive a $4000 stipend and two academic credits.

Internship Components:
As a hybrid position of the CCE Internship Program and The CALS NYS Internship Program, the Student Initiated Internship includes components of both programs:

2. Summer 2013: A 10-week, 32-hour/week community-based project – the Internship; in tandem with a community engagement class and discussion, Monday, June 3 – Friday August 9, 2013.
3. Fall 2013: A 1-credit Independent Study class and project presentations (dates to be determined).

The applicant selected for the internship will participate in the CALS NYS Internship Orientation and Prep course, which is designed to help interns learn about the community and region in which s/he will be working. Over the summer, the intern will work with a community leader, CCE educator, and faculty member to implement the project during the 10 week internship period, starting Monday, June 3 thru Friday, August 9th. Each week, the intern will meet with CALS NYS Internship Program staff and participants who are interning with businesses, agencies, and organizations in that region, via phone or webinar to discuss the types of assets that contribute to community vitality and consider the regions strengths and weaknesses relative to particular assets, with emphasis placed on those relating to youth retention and attraction. During the fall semester, when the intern returns to campus, s/he will work with other interns to formally reflect and report on his/her internship experience during a Fall 2013 independent study course and forums attended by other interns, hosts, community members, and Cornell faculty and staff.

Expected Outcomes (for intern):
While the intern will be expected to articulate the specific knowledge, information, and skills s/he seeks and expects to acquire as a result of his/her project in a Learning Action Plan developed during the 1-credit, “Internship Orientation and Prep” course (DSOC 4200), during the spring semester, it is expected that the intern completing the Student Initiated Internship will:

1) Gain experience in project development and implementation, in a real community setting.
2) Better understand some of the challenges and opportunities currently before New York communities, and the businesses, agencies, organizations and citizens in them.
3) Develop enduring relationships with community members, Extension educators, and Cornell faculty members.
4) Increase his or her confidence as a developing professional.

Eligibility Criteria:
To apply for the Student Initiated Internship, one must be:

- a CALS major or minor
- a sophomore or junior during the 2012-2013 academic year
- in good academic standing

Application Requirements:
To apply to be the 2013 Student Initiated Internship intern, please submit the following to Rod Howe, Assistant Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, via email: rlh13@cornell.edu. Do not complete the CALS NYS Internship Program application form.

1. A project description, of no more than two pages, single-spaced, 12 point font) identifying (1) the community you will work with, (2) the need or opportunity that will be addressed, (3) how, specifically, you will work with the community to address it, (4) the goals of the project, (5) any deliverables, (6) how you are qualified to implement this project.

2. A letter of recommendation from a community leader or local stakeholder from the community with which you will work, which demonstrates his/her knowledge of the project scope, process and expected deliverables, as well as supports the need and relevancy of the project for that specific community.

3. A letter of recommendation from a faculty member that indicates s/he will be your faculty sponsor and project mentor.

Application Deadline: Friday January 18, 2012

Internship Sponsors:
Engaged Learning + Research – The fiscal sponsor of this internship, Engaged Learning + Research is a new university-wide center, at Cornell, designed to advance academic service-learning, community-based research, and public scholarship across a wide spectrum of academic disciplines and programs. Engaged Learning + Research seeks to prepare future generations to be creative, collaborative, and critically reflective leaders in their professional lives and in their own communities.

Cornell Cooperative Extension - CCE connects the research-based knowledge produced by Cornell University faculty and staff to individuals, families, businesses and communities through community-based educators in county-based associations throughout the state. Some 170 Cornell-employed faculty and academic staff work collaboratively with 500 locally-employed professional extension educators aiming to enhance economic well-being and quality of life all over the state. CCE hosts the Cornell Cooperative Extension Internship Program, in which faculty and extension educators involve students in the college’s work to find solutions to New York’s most pressing concerns.

The CALS NYS Internship Program connects businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies with exceptional and motivated Cornell University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences students seeking career opportunities and a chance to get to know and contribute to New York communities. Attracting and retaining an educated and skilled workforce is a key to strengthening New York’s competitive edge and supporting its vibrant communities. The CALS NYS Internship Program supports this premise by offering Cornell students an opportunity to combine career-relevant work experience with the chance to forge meaningful connections with the communities and regions they work and live in.