

Summer 2008



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF
ECONOMIC IMPACT
AND DIVERSITY

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Minority Educational Institution Student Partnership Program (MEISPP)

Each year, the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity sponsors the Minority Educational Institution Student Partnership Program (MEISPP). This internship program provides students attending MEIs with 8 weeks of substantive professional and technical career experience. During the internship, students work side-by-side with assigned mentors, who are subject matter experts in the Department of Energy (DOE). Mentors help students tailor their practical work experience to the larger context of their professional interests and needs.

The goals of MEISPP include:

- Promoting internships and future career opportunities for students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs);
- Assisting the Department in developing a pipeline of potential candidates for accomplishing its diversity goals;
- Developing highly qualified and marketable students who are well-prepared to enter the Department and/or federal workforce upon graduation; and
- Increasing opportunities for HBCUs, HSIs, and TCUs to participate in and benefit from federal programs.

Applicants are selected from a variety of academic majors, such as economics, business, international relations, biology, physics, engineering, etc. All internships include paid lodging; roundtrip airfare; monetary compensation; field trips to a DOE site and/or facility; summer workshops; and social activities.

Internship Spotlight

Feature articles written by MEISPP interns about their experiences at DOE

Secrets of NETL

On July 8, 2008, DOE interns embarked on a scenic trip to Morgantown, West Virginia, to tour the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL).

As we boarded the bus early in the morning to begin our journey, the buzz of interns filled the air. *What might we see at this National Laboratory? Would we stumble onto anything top secret? How on earth did we all manage to make it to Forrester by seven o'clock in the morning?*

The ride took us down the road and through the mountains all the way to Morgantown, West Virginia. The trip also offered ample opportunities for MEISPP and the Office of Human Capital interns to get to know one another better.



NETL helps Department of Defense develop armor for military vehicles.

As we maneuvered the highways, we shared stories about our experiences as DOE interns this summer, (continued on Page 2)



“My internship afforded me with the opportunity to travel to a shooting range and observe investigators go through intense training to maintain their proficiency and accuracy of their firearms.”



(continued) **Secrets of NETL**

as well as our common interests and aspirations in the Federal Government. By the time we arrived at NETL, all of the interns were well acquainted and eager to learn more about the much-speculated “secrets of NETL,” a phrase we interns coined before reaching our destination.

To everyone’s surprise, the mission was not so top secret. In fact, much of the work at NETL involves researching various technologies to improve our nation’s energy efficiency. In fact, many were surprised to learn that NETL is greatly concerned with environmental research that will benefit future generations.

As we walked the halls of NETL, scientists explained that the facility engages in extensive research and development in fossil fuel technologies and leads the charge in improving technologies and equipment for the United States to become more energy efficient. In fact, much of their equipment and technology at NETL are used to benefit other agencies as well.

We learned that through various cooperative agreements with the private sector, educational institutions, and other groups, DOE is at the forefront of helping our nation become more technologically advanced and environmentally sound. We became aware that NETL is more sharing than secretive.

Many interns realized the rare opportunity they were being offered to witness the important work conducted at DOE in the area of energy efficiency, which currently tops the list on almost every country’s agenda.

At the end of the tour, we hung up our hard hats and boarded the bus back to Washington, D.C. We left with new friends, a better understanding of the type of work conducted at NETL, and a renewed faith in our future on this planet. ♦

Carolyn Jones
Office of Economic Impact & Diversity
Intern

Criminal Investigations – 101

My name is Jason McCraney and I am a senior at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. My major is criminal justice with a minor in Spanish.

I was assigned to the Office of Inspector General (OIG), Office of Investigations. The Office of Investigations conducts criminal, civil, and administrative investigations into allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse in programs and operations at the Department of Energy.

Last month, I had the opportunity to learn firsthand, from experienced investigators the procedures and methods that go into a successful investigation. I participated in a meeting with the F.B.I. to discuss potential cases investigators will pursue, and a public policy meeting dealing with laws crucial to Inspector General investigations.

During my internship, I traveled to another Federal Government OIG Investigations Office to discuss buying new technology to help monitor the activities of potential criminals.

My internship afforded me with the opportunity to travel to a shooting range and observe investigators go through intense training to maintain their proficiency and accuracy with firearms.

During my internship with the OIG, I completed a forensic examination of electronic media seized in an open case to determine if any illegal activity had been committed. I also practiced briefing senior leadership on case files and viewed completed investigative reports to get an overall understanding of case work management.

On a daily basis, I received great mentorship from everyone I came in contact with at the OIG. Meanwhile, I learned skills vital to pursuing a career as a criminal investigator.

This internship has greatly broadened my knowledge of what investigators do and the hard work and dedication it takes to become a Federal agent. ♦

Jason McCraney
OIG Intern

Civil Engineering at the Savannah River Site

My name is Joan Garcia and I live in Puerto Rico, which is located in the Caribbean between the Dominican Republic and the Virgin Islands.

I am currently majoring in Civil Engineering at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus and I wanted to do an internship in the United States. Luckily, I

was chosen to work at DOE's Savannah River Site (SRS).

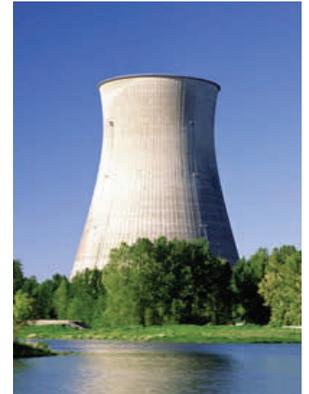
As my first job, this internship was a new experience in many ways. I come from a culture where the main language is Spanish, even though English is also spoken.

When I began to work at SRS, I was assigned to Parsons, a

construction company dealing with project development of the Salt Waste Processing Facility.

I reviewed the construction permits and the design documentation to verify that they are being fully implemented at the

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Located in Aiken, South Carolina, the Savannah River Site plays an important role in the maintenance of the nation's nuclear weapons complex.

Exploring the Western Area Power Administration (Sierra Nevada Region)

This summer I worked at the Western Area Power Administration, one of four power marketing administrations within the U.S. Department of Energy. WAPA operates and maintains more than 17,000 miles of transmission lines in a service area that covers 1.3 million square miles.

Located in Folsom, California, WAPA's Sierra Nevada Region office is responsible for providing electricity to cities and towns, public utility districts, Federal, state, and military agencies, Native American tribes, universities and other wholesale customers in northern and central California and parts of Nevada.

I worked specifically with the Natural Resources department here at the Folsom office.

Focused on planning and compliance, our department ensures that all of WAPA's proposed projects adhere to the relevant environmental laws and

WAPA operates and maintains more than 17,000 miles of transmission lines in a service area that covers 1.3 million square miles.

regulations, and that all ongoing activities meet guidelines regarding the protection of natural and cultural resources.

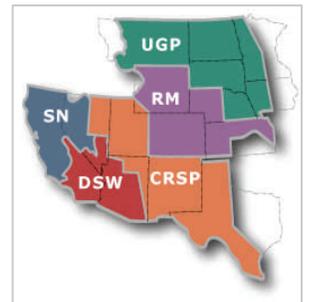
Nearly every proposed construction or maintenance project goes through an extensive decision-making process in which WAPA (with the help of the public and any cooperating agencies) assesses the foreseeable impacts of the project and the several alternative actions.

Working with WAPA has been a great complement to my education. Never before did I have such an opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge I acquired at school while working under the guidance of so many qualified individuals dedicated to the same field.

The insight I gained during the internship is especially beneficial as it relates to issues that I will likely encounter throughout my career, regardless of which area or sector I choose to work.

I hope to return to Toronto for my final year of school with a new understanding of energy-related issues, and a better idea of which direction I may take in the environmental studies field. ♦

Yvonne Mazurak
WAPA Intern



WAPA Regions include: Sierra Nevada, Desert Southwest, Upper Great Plains, Rocky Mountain, and Colorado River Storage Project Management Center.



Serving the West with Federal hydropower
Western Area Power Administration
 An agency of the U.S. Department of Energy

Finance Management with the Energy Information Administration

I am an intern for Office of Resource Management's finance team division in the Energy Information Administration (EIA), located in Washington, D.C.

As a junior majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in finance at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, I found this internship to be very applicable to my desired career field.

During my time with EIA, I worked on a projection cost analysis for EIA's working capital fund. In addition, I worked on EIA's fixed asset review and a presentation on managerial accounting for the Office of Resource Management.

My other duties included assisting

my mentors with EIA's uncosted reconciliation's and uncosted reports for each office within EIA. In addition, I entered special task queries in the EIA's internal accounting system, CABS.

Working with the finance team division has been a pleasure. I see my mentors as role models because they have experience in the field that I am interested in pursuing as a career.

I loved the work environment at EIA and always felt comfortable asking questions.

I can definitely see myself working for the finance team division full-time after graduation. ♦

Nadia Marston
EIA Intern

Did you know?

The Energy Information Administration (EIA), created by Congress in 1977, is a statistical agency of the Department of Energy. EIA provides policy-neutral data, forecasts, and analyses to promote sound policy making, efficient markets, and public understanding regarding energy and its interaction with the economy and the environment.

MEISPP Participating Offices and Programs:

- Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
- Chief Information Officer
- Energy Information Administration
- Office of Inspector General
- Economic Impact & Diversity
- Chief Financial Officer
- Environmental Management
- Health, Safety & Security
- Human Capital Management
- Legacy Management
- Office of Management
- Nuclear Energy
- National Nuclear Security Administration
- Policy and International Affairs
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
- Office of Science
- Western Area Power Administration

Information Technology at the Savannah River Site



My name is James R. Hobbs. I am a senior Computer Science major at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (NC A&T).

This summer I worked at the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Savannah River Site (SRS) in Aiken, South Carolina.

At SRS, I worked under the Information Technology (IT) group in the Office of

Documentation and Information Services (D&IS).

As my main project for the summer, I created a reporting system application for the D&IS Office. This reporting system contained two different tiers: one for weekly reporting and one for monthly reporting.

The weekly reports are used to note accomplishments completed by D&IS employees, and are sent to the IT Manager here at the site. The monthly reports encompass all accomplishments of D&IS employees for each month and are sent to DOE Headquarters.

During my stay here in South Carolina I resided on the University of South Carolina—

Aiken campus. There were five other interns in the program with me at SRS coming from different backgrounds and places including North Carolina, Maryland, Mississippi, Texas, and Puerto Rico.

I enjoyed my internship and gained useful experience in the realm of software and application development. The people I met were extremely helpful and I am thankful for this internship opportunity. The experiences I gained this summer will not only enhance my professional skills but also serve as a resourceful career starter. ♦

James Hobbs
SRS Intern



“When on the construction site, I was usually the only woman there. This fact did not intimidate me, but propelled me to work harder.”

(continued) **Civil Engineering at the Savannah River Site**

construction site. Also, I traveled to the construction site in J-Area, to learn about safety and the different phases of the construction process.

This internship has given me the opportunity to learn firsthand what type of work my career path entails – things I could not have learned from my textbooks or professors. I chose to study Civil Engineering because I am really interested in construction and design.

During the internship, I dealt with real issues that engineers face, and my work greatly contributed to SRS’s developing construction project.

In our society, I am considered a double minority because I am a woman and a Latin American.

When on the construction site, I was usually the only woman there. Engineering is generally a male-dominated

field. This fact did not intimidate me, but propelled me to work harder. I was glad to see that the other engineers did not treat me any different; they respected me and always solicited my input on various projects.

The MEISPP is an excellent way for students from minority institutions to experience the workforce and gain knowledge through hands-on experience. Interns contribute a great deal to the work of the Department. I thank the MEISPP for this opportunity and hopefully will be back next year with a permanent job at SRS. ♦

Joan Garcia
SRS Intern

We’re on the Web!

<http://doeminorityinternships.org/>



Legal Matters

My name is Tenaëa Thomas and I am currently a rising senior at Spelman College majoring in Political Science. During my internship, I worked for the Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) Office of the General Counsel.

My mentor, Alicia DeForest, exposed me to a variety of legal positions within DOE. She is an attorney that handles document requests from Congress.

Throughout my internship, I assisted DOE attorneys with different projects. Under the direction of a patent attorney for DOE, I updated records of energy magazine subscriptions in order to

help discover information for upcoming DOE intellectual property and/or patent lawsuits.

I was granted the opportunity to work with energy policy in another project in the General Law arena. For example, I helped locate statutes for different energy acts such as The Energy and Water Appropriations Act, The Defense Appropriations Act, and various related Acts. Statutes that are properly documented help the attorneys efficiently solve issues and assist other agencies within the Federal government in legal matters.

In addition, I assisted the Deputy

General Counsel for Environment and Nuclear Programs file and order documents for storage. I also worked with a fellow MEISPP intern, Lauren Sills, to incorporate statutes and Executive Orders onto the General Counsel website.

I am grateful for this internship opportunity, which provided me with a greater understanding of the legal arena. ♦

Tenaëa Thomas
Office of the General Counsel
Intern