Community Intern Initiative

Often a community may identify a priority or need but does not have individuals with the skill set to tackle the problem. The Community Intern Initiative is an opportunity for rural communities in NW Kansas to utilize an upper level college student who has the needed skill set to accomplish a project. Students are able to obtain the hands-on experience needed when looking for a job and communities benefit from their knowledge. It’s a win for both.

To participate: Communities or qualified organizations identify a community improvement project which could be completed with the help of one or two student interns. Working with a community leadership team throughout the summer (i.e. community development officer, chamber of commerce member, extension agent or other education professional) the student interns will develop and complete the project. The applicant organization is asked to also arrange opportunities for the interns to engage in civic and other service opportunities. These might include working with the media, regular reports at city council or economic development meetings or speaking opportunities at civic organizations.

The Hansen Foundation will provide $8,500 per student intern to Kansas State University. K-State Research and Extension will work with colleges and universities across the state to match interns (preferably juniors or seniors) to communities. The goal is to match student skills and field of study with community needs and projects. The interns will be employed by KSU for the summer, but may be attending another college/university. The length of the internship is a maximum of 400 hours with each intern working no more than 40 hours per week.

A community or qualified organization must complete a Community Intern Grant application outlining the project and the role of the interns within the project. If approved, the community or qualifying organization will be responsible for providing housing, office space, supplies and supervision of the interns as well as project expense.

Reporting: At completion of the internship and project, the community or organization will submit a final grant report to include information on the experience and accomplishments from both the student and the community perspective, photographs, media coverage and other information.
**Timeline:**

- **August- October**: Recruitment for community projects
- **October 31**: Deadline for communities to apply to host summer interns
- **November**: Job descriptions created for the internships based on community projects
- **December 1 thru January 31**: Recruitment of students
- **January 31**: Deadline for students to apply to be a summer intern
- **February**: Student interviews for internships
- **March 1**: Intern/community matches announced
- **March – May**: Interns and communities coordinate arrangements for the summer
- **May – August**: Interns work in the communities. The time frame will be flexible depending on individual needs, but is limited to 10 weeks not to exceed 400 hours. The intern coordinator will visit each community/student 1-2 times and be available as needed throughout the summer.
- **August 31**: Final reports due

**To apply:**

Complete the application found at: [https://danehansenfoundation.org](https://danehansenfoundation.org) under the internships tab.

The completed application should be emailed to:

Nadine Sigle  
K-State Research and Extension, Community Vitality  
nsigle@ksu.edu  
785-346-6256
2018 participants may be contacted about their experiences. They are:

Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation
Kelly M. Larson, Executive Director
lcedf@lincolncoks.org
Project: Downtown Revitalization for Lincoln and Sylvan Grove
Intern: Bethany Pingel, Interior Design, Kansas State University
Intern: Miki Blair, Architecture, University of Kansas

Jewell County Economic Development
Jenny Russell, Director
jenrusfreelance@gmail.com
Project: Downtown Revitalization and Community Fitness Centers
Intern: Erinn Engle, Architecture, Kansas State University
Intern: Jaid Runft, Marketing, Fort Hays State University

North Central Regional Planning Commission
Doug McKinney, Executive Director
dmckinney@nckcn.com
Project: Regional Food Assessment
Intern: Emily Reno, Environmental Studies, University of Kansas

Ad Astra Music Festival
Alex Underwood, Artistic Director
adastramusicfestival@gmail.com
Project: Developing and Collecting Media Artifacts For the Ad Astra Music Festival
Intern: Grace Currie, Music Education, University of Illinois

City of Belleville/Republic County Community Foundation
Steve Scofield, Foundation Board Chair
Stevescofield@gmail.com
Project: Conceptual Drawings for a Community Center
Intern: Ahmed Akasha, Architecture, Kansas State University

Wallace County Community Foundation
Christine Hammer, Foundation Board Chair
christyhammer@usd241.org
Project: Website Development for Wallace County Foundation and Wallace County
Intern: Sophia Hernandez, Communication Studies, Fort Hays State University