#YouthEngageNC

Monthly Digest
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Meet Our Summer 2016 Interns!

This summer, IEI is hosting three interns from two top-notch internship programs: the **Z. Smith Reynolds (ZSR) Non-Profit Internship Program**, and the **NC Community Development Initiative (NCCDI) Youth Leadership Program**.

Blog

Check out this month’s latest civic engagement blog post—contributed by Kyla Tucker, IEI’s Z. Smith Reynolds summer intern!

Research

Looking for data on how best to engage youth in your community? Here’s what we’re reading this month. Share your favorite youth engagement literature, and your pick could be
The ZSR program's mission is to diversify the pool of young nonprofit professionals. Each summer, the program selects up to 20 college and university students, who are awarded paid internships at ZSR-grantee organizations that are working to advance the Foundation's values.

The NCCDI program places rising high school seniors in six-week internships with community organizations around North Carolina. Each intern receives a stipend and has the opportunity to participate in leadership development training and field trips to meet with leaders across the state.

Here at IEI, we are incredibly grateful for the hard work of our interns this summer, and we wanted to have a chance to introduce you to them! We asked each intern a series of questions about their summer experience. Check out their answers below:

Kyla Tucker (ZSR intern)
Wake Forest University, Class of 2017

1. **Why did you apply for the internship?** The ZSR internship offers a paid internship in a nonprofit organization. Do you know how rare that is? I was really interested in experiencing the ins and outs of working in the nonprofit field.

2. **What projects are you working on?** I help manage the [Summer in the Commons](#) program, which brings in student groups from across the state to the IEI Commons to explore the big issues facing our state. I also wrote a script for a Commons tour, which we plan to record and add to our IEI (mobile) app. When people come to the Commons, they'll soon be able to listen to a tour on their phone! One of the most fun parts of my summer was writing the [June Education Newsletter](#); I've never written a newsletter featured in the August newsletter!

### Cultural Competence and Engaging Youth
Matt Leighninger, Public Agenda

### Helping Girls Unlock Their Leadership Potential
Anne OBrien, Edutopia

### Nurturing Leadership and Changing Student Mindset Through Meaningful Community Service: The HKU Service Leadership Internship
Jessie Mei-ling Chow and Shui-fong Lam, Quality of Life in Asia

#### Opportunities

Every month, we’ll highlight great opportunities for youth to engage across North Carolina. Let us know if you have an opportunity you’d like us to share!

**Greensboro Kids and Teen Programs**
The City of Greensboro offers a wide variety of events and programs—many free of charge—for children and teens.

**Conservation Trust of North Carolina (CTNC) AmeriCorps Program**
Become an AmeriCorps member with the CTNC’s 10-month national service program.

#### Spotlight

We’ve had the pleasure of partnering with some great organizations in our initial youth engagement work. Reach out to us, and we’ll feature your organization in our next issue!

**The ‘Club’ Teen Center, Wake Boys and Girls Club**

**Student U**

We also want to extend our sincerest gratitude to our educational partners...
before.

3. **What's been the most rewarding part of the internship?**
   Working at IEI has helped me meet some really interesting people, both in the office and around the state. I really like talking to people about how they got where they are. I've also really enjoyed working with Ethan and Marcus, our NCCDI high school interns. As their direct supervisor, I've learned a lot about managing people.

4. **What's been the most challenging?**
   This is my first time working in public policy, and it's sometimes hard to see the direct impact of what you're doing. That said, I've learned a lot about what a policy organization does, and that it just takes a longer time to see the impact of your work.

5. **If you could describe your summer experience in 2-3 words, what would it be?**
   Informative, diverse, eye-opening.

6. **What have you learned that you will take with you when you leave this summer?**
   I've learned to appreciate all the behind-the-scenes work it takes to put on a successful program.

For more from Kyla on her experience, check out her blog post on IEI's Civic Engagement blog!

**Ethan Styll (NCCDI intern)**
Rising Senior, Millbrook High School, Raleigh

1. **Why did you apply for the internship?**
   A school counselor recommended me for the internship program. I didn’t really know what community development was, but it sounded interesting, so I figured why not apply?

2. **What projects are you working on?**
   My main project is to run the Summer in the Commons tours. I've also worked on some other smaller projects, including editing a video for InnovateNC and drafting a flyer for donors.

3. **What's been the most rewarding part of the internship?**
   It's been really great seeing the inner-workings of a nonprofit organization and how everything gets managed... it's really cool to see how people rise to (a) challenge.

4. **What's been the most challenging?**
   I've had to work to be more detail-oriented. I'm someone who likes to get things done and do them well, but that doesn't always mean I'm really detail-oriented. This internship has helped me develop those skills, and I'm glad to be learning them now rather than later.

5. **If you could describe your summer experience in 2-3 words, what would it be?**
   Evolutionary and transformative.

6. **What have you learned that you will take with you across the state. As part of our FutureWork Prosperity Tour, we teamed up with youth engagement groups and local schools to talk to North Carolina’s youth about their future job prospects. For more information on these partners and the FutureWork Prosperity Tour, visit our website.

### Help Youth Get FutureWork-Ready This Summer!

IEI has been offered a generous $10,000 donation in support of its summer youth programs aimed at educating K-12 and college students on becoming "FutureWork-ready" leaders for North Carolina.

The catch? IEI must secure another 216 supporters, with gifts of at least $20.16!

Please help us meet this 216 supporters = $10,000 in youth program challenge!

[Donate Today!](#)
when you leave this summer? Because I’ve been giving tours every day, I’ve learned to hone my communication skills and to change my style depending on the age of my audience. For example, during Summer in the Commons, I change the way I present if I’m speaking to third graders as opposed to 10th graders. I’ll definitely bring these skills with me into my senior year of high school.

Marcus Reed (NCCDI intern)
Rising Senior, Needham B. Broughton High School, Raleigh

1. Why did you apply for the internship? I wanted to become a better leader (I’m already a leader in band), and this internship program seemed to be a good way to develop my leadership skills. Plus, it paid!

2. What projects are you working on? I help run the Summer in the Commons tours. I prefer giving tours to the older kids (middle and high school). The younger kids don’t pay enough attention.

3. What’s been the most rewarding part of the internship? I’ve loved the whole experience. As part of the NCCDI curriculum, we went to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro, and I was really inspired by what I saw there. At IEI, I like the relaxed work environment. Everyone works in a team, but they also work individually to get their projects done.

4. What’s been the most challenging? Running the Summer in the Commons tours has been really challenging, but it’s helped me get out of my shell and practice my presentation skills.

5. If you could describe your summer experience in 2-3 words, what would it be? Knowledge is power. (This has been a completely new experience. It’s my first 9-to-5 job).

6. What have you learned that you will take with you when you leave this summer? This summer has really inspired me to do something that matters. I want to start a club at school to teach other students about education policy in North Carolina and talk about how it affects us.

Editor’s Note: Earlier this summer, we hosted another fantastic intern, Kelly Forbis, as part of the Marian Drane Graham Scholars Program. Please click here for more information on this program, presented by the University of North Carolina System.