


Intern Program

 In 1993 the Planning Commission initiated its intern program for college students. The efforts and talents of these students are utilized to benefit the Planning Commission in several important areas including the development of the Parishwide Geographic Information System (GIS) database, research related to Comprehensive Plan Action Items, computer technology, environmental and economic development.

Students gain work experience in planning research, field survey techniques, GPS data collection, Web design and development, computer cartography, and spatial database development. The intern program is designed to help students gain supervised practical job experience in their planning related fields, while earning money for their education.

Among the related fields are Geography, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Studies, Environmental Studies, Civil Engineering, Public Administration and Political Science. However, the Planning Commission has also benefited from the efforts and talents of students who have come from other fields such as Law, Business, Computer Science and Anthropology.

Not only are the interns recruited from around Louisiana but the Planning Commission also recruits students on a national basis as well.

During the fall and spring semesters, students may work between ten (10) and 20 hours a week. During the summer and winter breaks students may work a forty (40) hour work week.

At any given time there are several student interns employed and working different hourly schedules for the Planning Commission. There have been instances when interns, that expressed interest in wanting to work for the Planning Commission after graduating, were hired to fill

full-time vacant positions.

GIS Database

A large majority of the intern work has involved updating and maintaining the Parishwide Geographic Information System database.

Through this process students gain practical knowledge and experience of land use survey and analysis, data recording



Interns work with and assist the Planning Commission Staff on a variety of projects.

procedures and database development. Since January 1994, interns have been collecting and recording various land use data, lot-by-lot, throughout East Baton Rouge Parish. Tasks include surveying property to record the address, existing land use, and business names utilizing GPS equipment. Upon returning to the office, the interns assist with entering the data into the Oracle database.

In addition to working on the land use data collection, interns are hired to assist the staff with other projects. This includes working with in the Special Studies Section, Economic/Environmental Research Section, and Current Division staff members. Interns also assist with the enterprise document management system (DMS).

Land Use Action Items

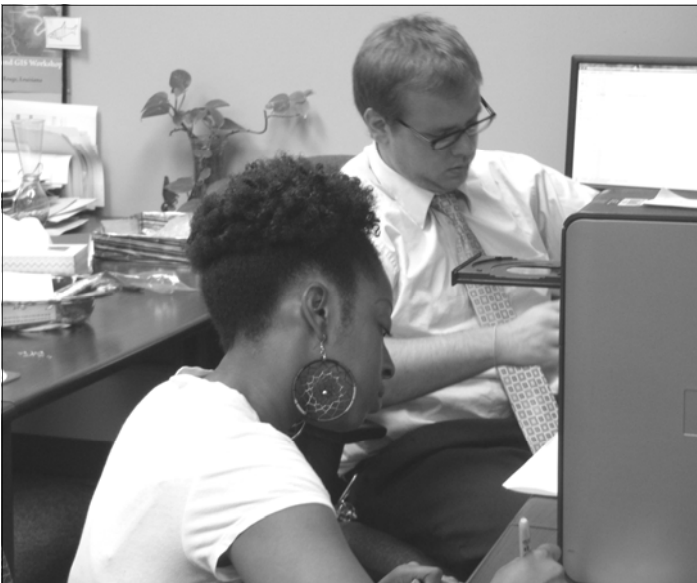
The Planning Commission serves as the Lead Agency for implementing many of the Comprehensive Plan strategies called “Action Items.” Interns have also been assigned to assist the staff with the comprehensive plan amendment process and research updates on these Action Items. The land use element includes identification of view corridors to preserve important visual lines of major features such as the State Capitol; and establishing procedures for designation of urban design districts and corridors.

Computer Skills

Computer technology skills are also part of the student intern program. Interns assist with the enhancement and development of the Planning Commission website and associated interactive mapping.

Environmental Research

Other aspects of the intern program include planning research for environmental projects and programs including: Wetlands, Brownfields, Greenspaces and Bike/Pedestrian Facilities. These studies involve research for environmental funding sources and data compiled for East Baton Rouge Parish related to water quality, storm water runoff and point source pollution.



Interns assist GIS staff with entry of planning data and data quality control.

The Planning Commission and the universities can both appreciate the value of working together with the intern program. The students receive “real” planning work experience while the Planning Commission benefits from



Interns play an integral role in GIS data development and maintenance.

trained students who may want to join the Planning Commission Staff when an opening occurs, or who will take planning knowledge with them to other jobs in the community.

Applying for a Student Internship

Intern positions primarily involve fieldwork data entry for GIS, and research related to comprehensive planning, computer science, handling documents, and office errands. Prospective students are preferred to be able to work full-time during the summer and winter break or approximately 10-20 hours per week during the fall or spring semesters. The candidates should be in good academic standing in their undergraduate or graduate program and working towards their degree in Planning or a related field such as Architecture, Civil Engineering, Geography, Environmental Science, Landscape Architecture, Political Science or Public Administration.

Please contact the City-Parish Planning Commission if you may be interested in applying for an Intern Program position.

For more information contact:

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