

Expanding Visions Foundation (EVF) Internship Update for MC November 7, 2018

1. Is the project/initiative succeeding in meeting its intended objectives? How is success being measured against strategic priorities?

Yes! The primary goals of the EVF internship are to provide underserved high school students real work experiences, introduce them to higher education and introduce them to careers in academic libraries. The program is meeting these goals and we received positive feedback and constructive suggestions from the interns, supervisors and mentors who participated in the program. The EVF internship falls inline with our strategic priority to “Engage for Broader Impact” and has a focus on at-risk and underserved communities.

2. Were the resources allocated for the project/initiative adequate? If not, why?

The resources were adequate.

3. Are there successes/highlights to share?

Let’s ask the students (we have 2 short video clips to share).

4. Is the project/initiative encountering any barriers to success? If so, what?

We experienced a challenging situation with one of the nine students, but that isolated situation doesn’t reflect on the overall success of the program. It has taught us several things about providing structure for students, having colleagues who are passionate about working with teenagers participate in the program and stressing to supervisors to contact HR or an EVF liaison as soon as they have concerns about a students work, schedule or overall participation in the program.

5. Is the project/initiative on time? Have you had to alter timelines? If so, why?

The 2018 program was done on schedule without any alterations. If we continue the program in 2019, we have suggested shortening the internship by one or two weeks. This would help ensure that there is enough work for the students to complete during their time with us.

6. Should the Libraries continue investments in this project/initiative? Why or why not?

Yes! In two short years, we have supported ten students by providing them with a professional work experience. These students were able to learn real work skills, gain an understanding about professional etiquette, were introduced to mentorship and much more. Two of our interns are currently freshmen at OSU, and one of them would credit her time with OSUL as the major factor for her attending our university. Many of our colleagues who participated as a supervisor or mentor, expressed that the program had a positive impact on them personally as well. Although we believe that ten students is the maximum number that we can realistically accommodate, if we continue to invest in this program it will only continue to get better for years to come. Not to mention, the word is spreading about our work in this area. We have been approached by colleagues from the University of Washington who have started a similar program, and we were selected to discuss the EVF partnership at the ACRL 2019 conference in Cleveland, Ohio.