**DENIN Environmental Scholars Internships**

Dates of internship: June 7 through August 13, 2021

Location: Based on the ever-changing campus response to COVID student projects can be conducted in-person, virtually or hybrid depending on safety, feasibility and campus protocol. **This internship will be virtual.** If it becomes safe, feasible, and allowed through campus protocol, working in person will take place at theCenter for Experimental and Applied Economics, Townsend Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711

Number of positions available: 1

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kent Messer

Professional Staff Mentor: Dr. Sean F. Ellis

**Project Title:** Drivers of Farmers’ Persistence with Cover Cropping

**Research Description:**

This project will merge several federal administrative datasets to evaluate persistence of cover cropping by farmers after initial adoption, including what drives persistence and/or what prevents it. Cover cropping minimizes nitrogen and phosphorus loss from soil, as well as prevents these chemicals and other sediments from polluting surface water and the surrounding environment. Although cover cropping is a proven and effective practice, persistence after initial adoption remains unknown as does what drives or prevents it.

**Research Objectives:**

1. Process and analyze administrative data using SAS, Stata and/or R.
2. Read and synthesize the literature on best management practice persistence and the broader persistence phenomenon literature.
3. Help assemble a longitudinal panel dataset from the administrative data of multiple federal government agencies.

Research Interns will be engaged primarily with the research project described above, but interns will have opportunities to be involved in other projects that are part of the Social Dimensions research for Project WiCCED (projectwicced.org); See Internship Descriptions for the following projects to learn about other Social Dimensions research opportunities:

* Cover crop persistence by Delaware farmers: A GIS investigation
* Continued participation in citizen science
* Examining the adoption of oyster farming in Delaware
* Experimental economics study of groundwater management
* Randomized controlled trial related to recruiting diverse students
* Homeowners’ willingness-to-pay for stormwater best management practices in Delaware

**Student Learning Objectives: Professional and Research Skills**

This internship focuses on the development of the following professional and scientific skills.

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| Broad Professional Skills | Specific Skills |
| Planning and time management | Ability to set and complete specific foals of varying scope |
| Express ideas in writing | Write descriptions of research procedures, create a poster of your research, communicate via email professionally and in a timely and consistent fashion |
| Express ideas verbally | Discuss research activity in lab meetings, present poster at symposium |
| Work independently | Independent work ethic – work independently or with peers to problem solve  |
| Develop professional network | Work with lab team and broader Social Dimensions and Project WiCCED team to develop professional network, and utilize peer-groups to problem solve. |
| Maintain professional attitude and work principles (i.e. integrity, responsibility, diligence, following ethical standards) | Be on time, learn procedures, ask questions if unsure, respect everyone you work with, complete and maintain Institutional Review Board (IRB) Certification to work with human subjects in research |

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| Broad Scientific Research Skills | Specific Skills |
| Understand scientific terms  | Behavioral, experimental and environmental economics |
| Locate scientific articles and resources | Conduct searches for literature on environmental valuation |
| Understand research questions |  |
| Read and understand research articles |  |
| Apply research tools and techniques in research experiments  | Participate in the development of and data collection of surveys to quantify willingness to pay for water quality improvements.  |
| Understand, apply, and explain scientific concepts and theories | In lab meetings, with lab personnel, and during research symposium |

**Prerequisites:**

Experience with SAS, Stata and/or R is preferred. A willingness to learn both is required. Other coding experience, such as shell scripting, is a plus. Introductory experience with economics (e.g., successful completion of APEC 100, APEC 150, ECON 101, or similar course) is required. Other economics courses are a plus.

**Work Environment and Expectations:**

Laboratory environment: Work will primarily take place **on zoom**. Hours are flexibly determined between student and mentor.

**Stipend:** $3,500 Direct deposit is required.

**Funding Source:** National Science Foundation, Delaware EPSCoR Track I

**How to apply:** https://ugresearch.udel.edu/PUB\_Program.aspx