INTERNSHIP PROFILE: ALLISON STRUSS

Major: Environmental Sciences, May 2015
Certificates: Environmental Studies, Engineering for Energy Sustainability

Certification Intern at Green Seal in Madison, WI

What were your primary responsibilities?
I aligned Green Seal certified products with green building practices and assessed how Green Seal certified products could be better used to gain points in LEED certification projects.

How did you find out about this internship?
The Nelson Institute's job listing page. It's where I found all three of my internships and my full-time job for after graduation. The site is pure gold!

What were the most rewarding aspects of your experience?
Producing a tangible project for my company that was useful for them. I still get emails and cards in the mail, telling me how my project benefitted the company, and it makes my day every time!

What advice would you give students who are considering an internship?
1) Start your first internship and as soon as possible! Getting your first internship freshman or sophomore year means that you'll have even better opportunities available for your junior year. You have four years to gain enough experience to prove to an employer you're ready for a full-time job. Four years sounds like a long time, but it flies by, so prepare yourself from day one.

2) It might sound silly, but don't act like an intern when you are interning for a company. Go to meetings and take notes, like an employee. Show up to work ten minutes early and show everyone that you are capable. That means keeping a detailed To Do List and calendar so that you're always on top of your tasks, because this is what an employee would do.

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