CEI Field Experience

The internship field experience will expose students to interdisciplinary watershed community issues so that interns:

- Increase knowledge of freshwater, coastal and marine science, policy and community-led topics;
- Create long-term supportive community via facilitated student peer networking;
- Deepen identities as environmental scientists and community leaders; and
- Experience all four Sea Grant focus areas: healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries & aquaculture, resilient communities & economies; and environmental literacy and workforce development.

The experience will include a range of activities, from state environmental agency visits to hands-on community fieldwork and scientific presentations, providing a comprehensive understanding of freshwater, coastal and marine water resource management in the southeastern U.S. The field experience will take place in North Carolina, a state with a unique contribution to the environmental justice movement that spurred national resistance to fight environmental burdens. Students will travel from the Piedmont (Raleigh) to the coastal plain and barrier islands to observe a diverse ecology and learn from a spectrum of communities addressing complex water management challenges.

Logistics: NC Sea Grant will arrange air travel for students and pay all expenses for the trip with funds from the National Sea Grant Office.

Day 1: Sunday, July 21, 2024

- Travel to Raleigh
- Evening social

Day 2: Monday, July 22, 2024

- Policy panel discussion: Watershed regulations and government efforts to protect aquatic ecosystems
- N.C. Department of Environmental Quality/Coastal Area Management Act
- Visit Walnut Creek Wetland Park for conversation and service: Community-led cleanup efforts in southeast Raleigh
- Scientific presentations by NC Sea Grant funded researchers

Day 3: Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Interns travel from Piedmont to coastal North Carolina

- Iced tea at Croatan National Forest
- Dinner at Atlantic Beach

Day 4: Wednesday, July 24, 2024

- Boat tour of barrier islands, leaving from Beaufort marina
- Engage with coastal communities on the edge: Down East Carteret County
- Visit Carteret Community College + NC State University Center for Marine Sciences and Technology

Day 5: Thursday, July 25, 2024

- Travel to Raleigh
- Interns return home