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WWU LEAD Program Peer Advisor

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Internship Report: L.E.A.D Program Peer Advisor

Emmett Linklater

Internship Dates: 10/11/21 - 3/11/22

Faculty Advisor: Andy Bach

Internship Supervisor: Sydne Tursky



Disclaimer

Internship Title: L.E.A.D Program Peer Advisor

Student Name: Emmett Linklater

Internship Dates: 10/11/21 - 3/11/22

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STUDENT SIGNATURE: *Emmett Linklater*

DATE: *3/17/2022*

LEAD's Mission Statement

“LEAD provides experiential community engagement opportunities for students to apply environmental knowledge outside the classroom. Our organization fosters partnerships within the WWU community and the Whatcom community at large. These partnerships between community members, public lands, and WWU aim to restore and preserve native biodiversity in Whatcom county.”

Why I Took This Internship

After hearing about the opportunity to apply to be a LEAD intern while taking the LEAD seminar in spring of 2021 I was excited to be able to pursue further hands-on experience with environmental restoration non-profit work. This is a field I have always been interested in developing a career in and wanted to create and apply my knowledge in.

Position Description

In this position I supported the directors of the WWU College of the Environment L.E.A.D. (Learning, Environment, Action, and Discovery) in tasks in the office and during fieldwork experiences. My primary tasks included networking and advertisement to promote our two weekly environmental restoration volunteer events as well as assisting in coordinating and assisting volunteers at the events.

Learning Objectives

As part of my initial internship contract I set the learning objectives of recruiting and managing volunteers, supporting and running work parties, identifying local, native and invasive

species, and promoting a non-profit organization through campus news outlets, social media, and community outreach. Through my administrative work giving class presentations and reaching out to WWU faculty I gained experience recruiting volunteers and promoting a non-profit. At our work parties regularly provided volunteers in areas such as assistance with invasive species removal techniques, tool safety and plant identification which provided me with practice managing volunteers. This event promotion, volunteer management and additional event set up and tear down gave me experience working to run a volunteer event from start to finish. Lastly, my learning goal of identifying local, native and invasive species was accomplished by my own identification knowledge growth but also my experience teaching others this knowledge.

Creation and Application of Knowledge

In addition to the completion of my learning objectives I also gained knowledge in other unforeseen areas and was able to apply my classroom knowledge to my field work. A few examples of my application of classroom knowledge include: In my introduction to environmental education class in Fall 2021 we learned about being inclusive and accessible in environmental work which I was able to apply to my language and contributions to the set up of the volunteer events. Winter 2022 I was able to explore hands on and share knowledge I was learning in Intro to Soils with the participants at the events. Other skills I further developed during my time as a LEAD intern include, planning, office skills, working as part of a team (indoors and outdoors), communicating effectively with a variety of people, managing time and workload and computer applications usage

Conclusion and Next Steps

Upon completion, I can thoroughly say I enjoyed and benefited from my experience as a LEAD intern. This experience has created the opportunity for more depth of learning within my field of study and strengthened my interest in pursuing a career in the field of nonprofit environmental work. I feel I am now experiencing and knowledgeable in the areas of promoting community engagement, teaching local environmental knowledge and native habitat restoration. I look forward to pursuing this path and pushing myself to continue to build upon this knowledge here are at WWU thought the remained or my coursework and beyond throughout my life