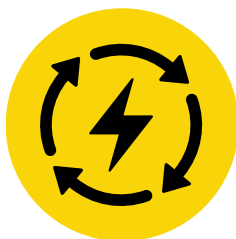


INTERN FOUNDRY

ADDING CAPACITY | CULTIVATING NEBRASKA'S TALENT



Connect high-achieving students with organizations to meet community need



BUILD CAPACITY

Address critical areas of high community need



BRAIN GAIN

Develop stronger future talent, leadership, and volunteers



CENTER STUDENTS

Student-led, meaningful work-based learning

The Intern Foundry (IF) program is a partnership between the Foundry and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Honors Program that aims to address the "brain drain" in Nebraska. It pairs high-achieving students with work-based learning opportunities in areas of critical community need to cultivate a long-term talent ecosystem among the next generation of community leaders. The program helps build a pipeline of future talent, leadership, and volunteers across Nebraska by connecting students with nonprofits, public sector organizations, and purpose-driven businesses.



6000+ HOURS

DEVELOP CRITICAL PROJECT CAPACITY

FOSTER INVESTMENT IN MEANINGFUL WORK



LEARN MORE

INTERN FOUNDRY IMPACT

The Intern Foundry (IF) program connects hardworking, community-focused UNL Honors students with non-profits, public sector organizations, and purpose-driven businesses to develop a strong pipeline of future talent, leadership, and volunteers in Nebraska. In the spring, the program serves a variety of purpose-driven organizations, while the summer cohort focuses on addressing the most urgent and relevant community needs. The IF program's support and structure are crucial for a successful internship experience for many groups it serves, providing the talent, capacity, and quality work needed to complete essential projects.

Key Outcomes of the Intern Foundry Program



Skill Development

Project management skills, such as planning, communication, time management, and problem-solving, are valuable to students and employers. These skills are useful for many jobs in our state—particularly with nonprofits, public-sector organizations, and purpose-driven businesses.



The Power of Mentorship

The strength of the IF program is the collaboration between students and supervisors on meaningful work-based learning projects. With our support, the nonprofits, public-sector organizations, and purpose-driven businesses who support IF can provide this experience to IF interns despite limited capacity.



Building Community Capacity

The Intern Foundry program allows partner nonprofits to undertake projects they otherwise may not be able to complete. It further provides a pipeline for future volunteers and employees invested in the organization's mission and work.



Addressing Brain Drain in Nebraska

The IF program invigorates the community by injecting high-achieving students' creativity and hard work. Experience deeply roots students in the community, increasing the likelihood that they will continue to invest in purpose-driven work, local communities, and the state following graduation.



PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS



Linked2Literacy's annual EMpowerME event serves as an effort to collect \$50,000 in funding for the organization through sponsorships and ticket sales. The role of the intern was to assist in the planning and organization of this vital event. Planning, marketing, communication, and execution were all crucial steps in the success of the event and a great baseline for any future endeavors of the intern.



Our intern assisted in the preparation of Nebraska Arts Advocacy Day, working alongside the executive director. To prepare for the event, the intern had a role in space reservations, preparation of senator introductions, communication with registrants, and assistance on the day of the event. Additionally, the event was spread via social media by the intern to boost awareness of Arts Advocacy Day.



As OutNebraska worked to grow their resource directory to encompass resources from across Nebraska, the intern provided additional research and website updates. The intern was able to connect with a variety of existing organizations to grow their network throughout the project as they worked to help LGBTQ+ community members across the state in accessing resources to improve quality of life.



In preparation for a rapidly growing team, NAMI Nebraska's intern assisted the Executive Director in restructuring the organization. This included centralizing data for fundraising through key statistics Tip Sheets, hiring a new Program Manager, and enhancing the operations of the nonprofit. Executive Director James Michael Bowers remarked, "If [she] wasn't going to law school, I'd make her the Director of Operations!"

INTERN FOUNDRY QUOTES AND DATA



QUOTES FROM INTERN FOUNDRY SUPERVISORS

"I have been very impressed with the interns that we have had. They are smart, driven, and have a willingness to learn."

"Like similar organizations, we are very busy multitasking and wearing many hats. The fact that our intern is able to work independently, and has from Day One, is so valuable. Our intern has exhibited superior skills in project management, setting her our timelines and goals. Her independence allows us more time to focus on providing feedback, guidance, and experience enhancing transferrable career skills."



QUOTES FROM INTERNS

"I've gained a lot of knowledge into the runnings of nonprofits, and was surprised at the unique challenges they face."

"Through the work I've done so far, I've had my eyes opened to new opportunities in Nebraska, and I've gained new hard skills that are extremely valuable."

"It {IF program} opened the door for me to realize I may want to work in the nonprofit sector in the future and continue doing fulfilling work."



CRITICAL TALENT AND CAPACITY

95% of participating nonprofits in 2022-2024 report that the talent and capacity provided by their intern was critical to the completion of essential projects.

"As a small nonprofit organization, the IF students add critical capacity and provide valuable support on some of our most pressing projects." - Participating Nonprofit Executive Director



QUALITY WORK

100% of participating nonprofits in 2022-2024 report that the quality of the intern's work in the Intern Foundry program was quality.

"As a new nonprofit, our intern is making a huge impact already. Her dedication, enthusiasm, and professionalism is invaluable. The research she has already provided is setting us up for long-term success!" - Participating Nonprofit Co-Founder

