

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

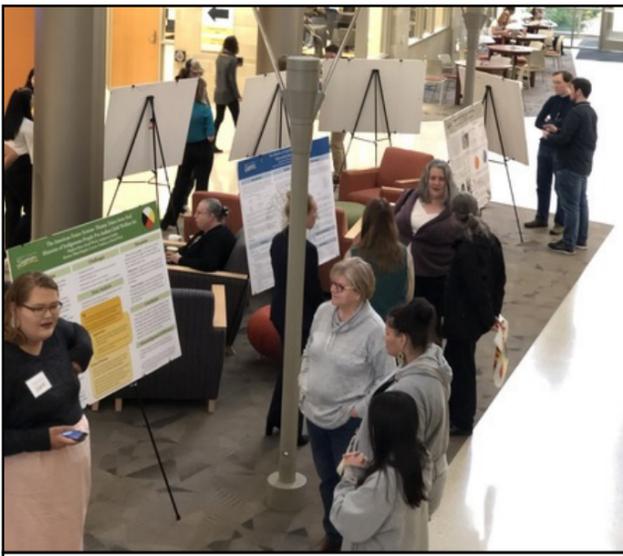
SURF applications open, opportunities for student research

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Applications for the 2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program for scholarly and creative projects are open for UW-Superior undergraduate students until March 15.

SURF projects in past years have involved a wide range of subjects, and research projects are all mentored by UWS faculty or staff members to support students with guidance over the summer. Applicants can specify whether they would like to complete a 100-hour development project or a 200-hour fellowship project. Monetary stipends are awarded to both students and mentors, depending on the size of the project.

Along with hosting from the Center for Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity (URSCA), the SURF program is funded by the UW-Superior Foundation. Since 2012, the SURF program has been promoting cross-curricular research, spanning, but not limited to creative writing, arts, music, social sciences, natural and physical sciences, and technology. Past projects have included both global and locally focused research. Students also collaborate with their mentors in designing their project,



Student researchers present at the annual SURF Symposium. This photo is from the 2019 event held in Swenson Hall. Promethean File Photo by Jean Germano

documenting it, and presenting their project at an annual campus SURF Symposium.

Given the state of the COVID-19 pandemic, SURF applicants must design their projects in accordance with health and safety protocols. Last year's applicants saw this change firsthand, having to shift their previously in-person research activities to conform to an online format. Julie O'Leary, Director for the Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, recounts the success the program had in spite of the pandemic.

"While many campuses saw reduced levels of participation in summer research, this was not the case at UW-Superior," O'Leary says. "There was a high level of interest from students and we received proposals for projects that could proceed remotely, including some that relied on databases and other resources that

could be accessed online."

Pandemic aside, the SURF program prides itself on the creative outlets in which students draft their projects, allowing them the freedom and flexibility to research many thought-provoking topics. Student projects are often geared toward the exploratory, laying the groundwork for future research beyond what the 10-week period during the summer holds.

Students eligible for either of the SURF projects must be in strong academic standing and have completed at least 24 or more credits at UWS by the end of the spring 2021 semester.

For more information on filling out the application for the 2021 SURF Program, along with examples of past SURF projects, students should visit the Summer Research Program website www.uwsuper.edu/ursca/events/surf.

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Ultimately, the GERC has learned to adapt to any situation, global pandemic notwithstanding. Despite the GERC's current community involvement being very programmatic due to the virtual environment, they still strive in providing resources to students of all backgrounds and identities. Organizations like GERC create a haven for LGBTQ2+ students, and they're working their hardest to support people of all communities. GERC is here to empower students and provide education and advocacy for gender equity, sexuality, women's experiences, and LGBTQ2+ identities. Anyone can explore themselves and their identity.

"We're open for everybody," Leeper states.

If you have questions, are interested in getting involved, or are curious

about leadership opportunities with the Gender Equity Resource Center, you can visit their website at www.uwsuper.edu/genderequity, email them at genderequity@uwsuper.edu, or visit them in Swenson Hall 1031.

Leeper also holds virtual office hours for all students, staff, and faculty, every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Appointments can be made by emailing tleeper@uwsuper.edu.



The GERC door in Swenson Hall 1031. Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. weekdays.



The GERC celebrates the diversity of UWS campus and community members. Their vision is to empower and support individuals of all genders and sexualities, while their mission is to provide education, resources, awareness, and advocacy on topics related to gender equity, sexuality and sexual health, women's experiences, and LGBTQ2+ identities.

Photos by Lindsey Jalivay

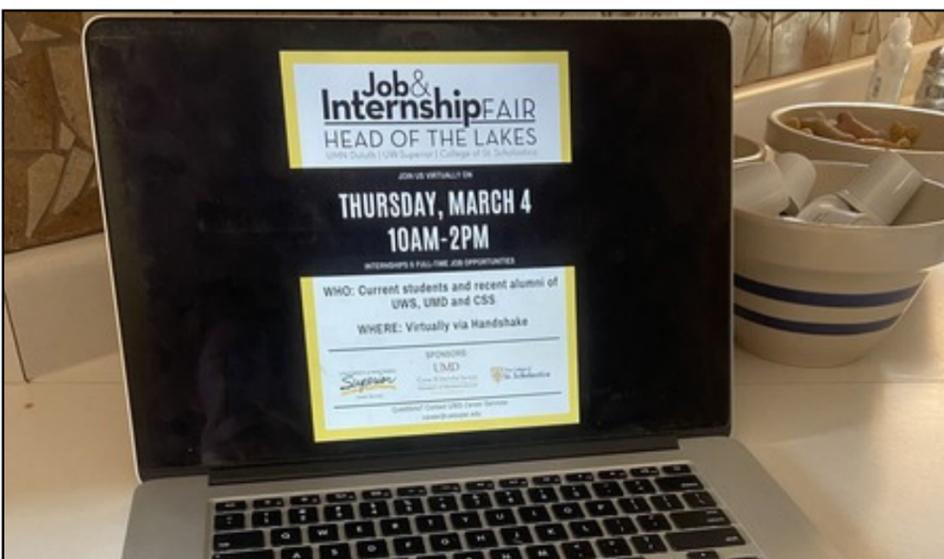
COMMENTARY | In search of an interview: My experience at the Head of the Lakes Job and Internship Fair

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Finding an internship is hard, draining and sometimes downright depressing. Getting rejected repeatedly is never great for keeping a person in high spirits. I was in search of an interview. Tired of applying for internships and not getting a single interview, I registered for the 2021 virtual Head of the Lakes Job and Internship Fair in early February.

Knowing that my resumé needed to be updated, I decided to use the Career Services Center on campus to help with making some updates. Doing so taught me a wealth of new information about resumé. For example, I learned that my formatting was wrong, I didn't need to include all the information that was in my header, and I got help creating resumé bullets that showcase what I did at my past jobs in a quantifiable way.

With the Head of the



Acquiring a job or an internship is one of the biggest hurdles for college students. The Head of the Lakes Job and Internship Fair, hosted by UWS Career Services, is one way in which local students can get a headstart

Photo by Kerrigan Vig

Lakes Job and Internship Fair being virtual this year, I knew I would also need some advice on how to do virtual interviews. Again, Career Services came in helpful here, as I learned to make sure the web camera is at a good angle, to look at the camera, to not fidget, and to make sure that the background is clean and professional. If you cannot present with a clean, professional background, be sure to use a virtual

one. I used a stuffed animal in the background to make sure I would maintain eye contact.

I made sure I did my research on the companies I was meeting with, and I had questions ready. That way I could fill my time and I would avoid any "deer in the headlights" moments during the one-on-one meetings.

The day of the fair was a little nerve racking, as I

had three one-on-one sessions set up. Of the three, I was only able to speak with two of them. The third company had canceled their slots, stating that they had chosen to limit one-on-one sessions for the day.

The video chat format was surprisingly easy. I set up my laptop according to the tips I got from Career Services. I had my research and my questions next to me, and I was

ready to go for my one-on-one meetings.

After completing my sessions, I preferred the video chat format over an in-person meeting. I was able to spend a full 10 minutes asking questions and learning about the company with zero interruptions or distractions. The only downside to the format was that there was only 10 minutes, and I did have my time get cut short in one of the one-on-one sessions.

After attending the Head of the Lakes Job and Internship Fair, I applied to open positions with both of the companies I spoke to. Fingers crossed I get an interview.

For more information about opportunities provided by Career Services, you can email them at career@uwsuper.edu or visit their webpage at www.uwsuper.edu/career.