



Equitable Food Systems Internship

Would you like to research the systemic injustices embedded in our food system and then apply the knowledge you've learned to work with community partners to increase food access to marginalized people? The Sustainable Agriculture Project at GVSU offers rewarding internships that expose students to practical hands-on knowledge while encouraging creativity.

Position Summary:

The Equitable Food Systems Internship is split into two separate time frames: **1. Winter** and **2. Spring/Summer**. **1.** The winter intern will research the Juneteenth holiday examining how this historical event shapes the present day experience for African Americans and will assist in planning, in conjunction with community partners, a land blessing on April 19th at the Sustainable Agriculture Project. **2.** The Spring/Summer intern will also research the Juneteenth holiday and will assist in coordinating with community partners to host a resource booth at the annual Juneteenth celebration (June 19th) in Grand Rapids. The successful applicant will apply the knowledge learned through their research at both of these events, build relationships with community partners, and start and care for vegetable plants to be given to community members during the Juneteenth celebration.

Qualifications:

- Commitment to fully utilize the internship as a learning experience
- Interest in food systems and food equity
- All majors are welcome to apply

Both Interns will:

- Research the Juneteenth holiday by investigating the historical context of the effective end of slavery in the United States, the social ramifications of slavery for African Americans, and the present day celebrations of Juneteenth.
- Recognize connections between the United States' exploitative agricultural system and the historical legacy of slavery.
- Research the local food system in West Michigan by examining systemic injustices to marginalized communities such as the barriers to food access, food apartheid, and the health components of food.
- Explore the different solutions to systemic issues in our food systems by understanding the differences between food sovereignty, food justice, food insecurity and food access.
- Partner with community organizations for each event to strengthen the resource network available for People of Color in West Michigan.
- Seed and care for the healthy development of culturally appropriate vegetable starts to be given to community members living under food apartheid.

Specific to the Winter Intern

- Execute a successful land blessing at the SAP on April 19th by leading volunteers through the seeding process of plant starts to be distributed at the Juneteenth celebration

Specific to the Spring/Summer Intern

- Care for the plant starts throughout the growing stages to ensure healthy development of the plants. Distribute the plants to community members living under food apartheid on June 19th.

Note: This is a for-credit, unpaid internship opportunity