

Library Board of Trustees Meeting

July 26, 2021

Staff Update: WAICU (Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges & Universities) Summer Interns

WAICU Internship Program:

Through the generous support of two Wisconsin foundations, WAICU offers summer internships to non-profit host sites throughout Wisconsin. Student interns receive a \$2,000 summer stipend (disbursed throughout the summer) and a \$3,000 scholarship in exchange for 400 hours of work over 10 summer weeks. Interns gain valuable experience in the nonprofit sector and get a summer of amazing experiences.

Manitowoc Public Library has been a part of the WAICU internship program for five years. Each December, we submit our application to be chosen as a host site for the following summer. This year, we were thrilled to be chosen to host not one, but TWO full-time interns to help with our summer reading program. After interviews in early April, Ashley Neel and Trenton Bebermeier were hired as our WAICU interns for Summer 2021.

Ashley Neel:

My name is Ashley Neel, and I am currently a sophomore at Lakeland University. I am a double major in History and Secondary Education. I found this particular internship through the WAICU Foundation at a virtual job fair from my college. What the many internships had to offer interested me, and I started my interview process.

I am so grateful to be an intern here at the Manitowoc Public Library. The internship position at MPL really caught my attention because of my education major. I had an idea that if I did an internship at a library and what it entails (planning lessons for programs, learning how to work with children of all ages, facing adversity and adapting to change last minute), it would prepare me moving forward in the education field; and so far it has! I have learned so much from this internship, and it is preparing me on how to adapt to different learning styles in programs or different platforms of teaching and it is teaching me to really learn how to change things last minute and still have everything run smoothly!

I have had so much fun during this internship, but the highlight of it all is after college. Walking into this internship, I had the notion coming in that I was doing this to prepare me for becoming a teacher after college. This internship has been so much fun and provided me so much insight into how libraries really run, that I am considering going a different direction with my career choice and earning a Masters Degree in Library Science instead! I am looking forward to the next three years and hope to return to MPL next summer!

Trenton Bebermeier:

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My name is Trenton Bebermeier. I attend Saint Norbert College in De Pere, majoring in Music Performance with a minor in Japanese. I will be a senior this upcoming school year. My hobbies include reading, writing poetry, short stories, and songs, making and performing music with either my trumpet or guitar, swimming in lakes and rivers, playing soccer, and art in various capacities. Some of my favorite authors are Jack Kerouac, Aldous Huxley, Natsume Soseki, Charles Bukowski, John Saul, and Cormac McCarthy. Some of my favorite musicians include Ornette Coleman, Sun Ra, Don Cherry, Ichiko Aoba, Leonard Cohen, and (most importantly) Phil Ochs. My favorite artist is Ivan Aivazovsky.

Before my internship at the library, my main place of employment was Sargento during the summer and winter in order to finance my schooling. While this was good money, it offered next to no long run experience. It was my English professor showed me the WAICU internship options. I was immediately drawn to the two library options, as I have an astute love for literature and collections of knowledge. It was to my great pleasure that I got the opportunity to work at MPL.

Before my first day, I had two goals in mind. One, I wanted a lot more 'real' experience working in an environment full of patron interaction. I wished to hone my people skills, and learn techniques for overcoming social barriers. Two, I wanted to know a lot more about the inner workings of a non-profit organization. To me, the public sector is a lot more interesting than the private sector, as I get enjoyment out of helping to structure a community, of which libraries have played a giant role in, both now and in the past. Additionally, in the span of my time working at MPL, I have discovered many things I wish to explore further, such as learning much more about the Dewey Decimal Classification and its strengths and flaws. I am also greatly interested in the processes used to determine what materials are added to the library, as well as how some elements (such as hotspots) come to be included in the library's collections.