

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
MENTOR TEENS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Presenters:

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OUR EXPERIENCE

- In 2017, Burnsville PL applied for the PLA inclusive internship initiative (iii) Grant.
- In 2018, unknowingly, both Cabell County and Brooke County PL applied for the 2nd wave of the PLA iii Grant.
- The purpose of this grant was to foster inclusivity in the library profession.
- The program consisted of:
 - Finding & hiring an intern
 - Kick-Off Event in DC
 - Intern developed project(s)
 - Wrap-Up Presentation Event in Chicago



2017 iii Squad





2018 III Squad





I ♥ PLA



↑
RESTROOMS
SALONS E-G
OHIO RIVER
WABASH RIVER

BURNSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S EXPERIENCE

- Being at work vs. Prior/Other Commitments
- Lots of great ideas and energy
- Teens/Young Adults came to programs
- Extra Help with day-to-day tasks
- It was hard to maintain the momentum after they were finished
- We are struggling again to get Teens/Young Adults for programs

One of our interns was able to get a work study position at college because of their experience with the library and iii.

iii offers a wonderful opportunity for showing teens that library work is not just checking out books!!!



BROOKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S EXPERIENCE

- Trouble finding an intern
- Learning curve on both ends
- Harder to draw the line in the sand
- Staff growth & acceptance
- Project did have attendance
- Did have a slight disconnect
- Want to do it again



CABELL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S EXPERIENCE

- Easy intern selection
- Fostered positive relationships
- Helped with short staffing
- Fostered engagement with other teens in our community
- Provided and created great programming
- Gave a teen hands on experience in the workforce as a paid, full time employee.
- Great PR
 - We had positive feedback from other organizations and community leaders.
http://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/teen-library-intern-does-more-than-shelve-books/article_bcl1f0296-a4e4-582d-a08e-4508fee37cc3.html
- Our intern is still volunteering.
- Unbelievable experiences in DC and Chicago.
- Increased social media following

TEENS ARE AWESOME AND UNDERESTIMATED!





Cloud Gate "The Bean", Chicago



The Washington Monument, Washington, D.C.



Georgetown University "Hogwarts", D.C.



WHY DO IT?

- Why model after iii?
 - Reminds you to connect with other age groups
 - Reminds you to be open to other backgrounds
- Why incorporate a YA intern?
 - Allows your staff the ability to work fluidly with others with different viewpoints, age ranges, etc.
 - It does give you an “in” factor when working with YAs
 - Will bring their friends and families to programs
 - Might know what is currently the new “thing”
 - Connects you to a younger population that is often the “toughest to attract”
 - This population is our not so distant future for politics, health care, public services, and more.



WHAT WE LEARNED

- That we have created life long library advocates
- That Young Adults:
 - Are more connected to what is going on around us
 - Bring a completely different culture & viewpoints to the table than we ever thought possible
 - Give us a tremendous hope for our future
 - That most people, young or old, think of library work as only checking in and out books. Any opportunity that we can take to show them otherwise should be taken.



WHAT WE WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY

- The process of finding and selecting an intern
- Guidelines for first time employment
- Try to find the funds to continue their internship beyond iii.
- Try to spend more quality time with the intern.
- More community engagement and outreach.
- Make sure you look at your payscale to determine intern's hourly wage. You do not want your intern making more than your library staff.



OTHER WAYS YOU CAN MENTOR TEENS

- YALSA Dollar General Summer Learning Grant/Teen Read Week Grant
(many other grants are also available for teen services)
- Friends/Community Sponsorships
- Volunteer opportunities/community service hours for school
- Reading Buddies
- Unpaid internships
- Traditional library programs
- Attend local youth programs to support your teens



QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS?



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