

Great Lakes Business Network 2020 Summer Internship Position

(housed through National Wildlife Federation)

2020 Lake Erie Algal Bloom Accountability Tool Project

The Great Lakes Business Network (GLBN) is a coalition of nearly 150 business leaders that are committed to protecting the Great Lakes region from threats to the natural environment. The Network strives to be the leading business voice for protecting the health and vitality of the Great Lakes and the economy, businesses and communities that depend upon them. The GLBN was founded in 2017, with the National Wildlife Federation as the fiscal sponsor, and currently works on 4 core issues, including working to remove Line 5 from the open waters of the Great Lakes, advancing clean energy solutions and policies, preventing invasive species and preventing toxic algal blooms in Lake Erie.

In 2018, the GLBN added the issue of preventing toxic algal blooms in Lake Erie with a goal to highlight the economic importance a clean Lake Erie provides to our region. The Network recognized that inaction was largely being driven by private sector interests and building a business voice for protecting Lake Erie could help push decision makers toward advancing solutions.

Internship Goals: Assist the GLBN and NWF in developing a regional accountability and advocacy tool that outlines how state and provincial governments along Lake Erie should take action to reduce nutrient runoff into its major tributaries.

Project Overview: The GLBN is in need of a core advocacy tool that can guide its advocacy within its Lake Erie issue area. Because of the complex and multi-jurisdictional nature of Lake Erie issues, this tool needs to be informed by an array of current economic and policy reports, existing state policies and programs, funding sources, and other relevant work. The project would focus on the research and analysis of these resources, culminating in a recommendation and outline for a core regional advocacy tool specific to the GLBN and its unique voice. The GLBN is particularly interested in a tool that will be able to track accountability with decision makers – examples of this type of tool could include a score card or report card, a policy platform, or something similar.

When produced, the advocacy tool will be used by the GLBN to apply pressure on the state and provincial leadership of Ohio, Michigan and Ontario to further increase their efforts to clean up Lake Erie. Ideally, the tool will be developed in a way that allows for annual updates to track progress.

Programmatic Duties:

- Conduct Research

- Assist with project scope and outline, produce key questions and drive research, and conduct outreach to key stakeholders
- Analysis of Findings
 - Analyze findings of research through key questions, help determine most effective advocacy messages and avenues for business voice
- Develop Tool Recommendations
 - Using analysis and findings, develop a recommendation for effective advocacy tool for the GLBN, including an outline for the final product

Professional Opportunities:

- Learn about and advocate for state policies that affect Great Lakes restoration and protection
- Gain experience in state advocacy, non-profit work as well as with the unique Great Lakes Business Network
- Potential for occasional travel throughout Great Lakes region for GLBN member outreach
- Meet leaders from around the region on Great Lakes issues, including leaders of the Great Lakes Business Network

Minimum Qualifications:

- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines
- Strong ability to conduct data analysis and do research
- General knowledge of environmental science and policy, preferably including core threats to Lake Erie from algal blooms
- Willingness and ability to conduct direct outreach to state decision makers
- Proficient in Microsoft office platform

Intern will be housed at the Great Lakes Regional Center of the National Wildlife Federation in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Applications will be screened by a faculty committee, which will then forward materials of qualified applicants to our partner organizations, which will make final decisions. Please submit your application materials to greatlakesthemsemester@umich.edu