



2022 IMPACT AWARDS

Spotlighting Excellence
in Internships

By Symone C. Skrzycki

WORK 
LEARN
INDIANA

Nine categories, 80-plus nominees and infinite potential. Welcome to the 16th Annual Indiana IMPACT Awards.

The February 22 event, hosted by Work and Learn Indiana (WLI), recognizes outstanding talent and contributions regarding Hoosier internships.

WLI cultivates the creation and expansion of high-quality experiential opportunities within Indiana. It connects employers, learners, high schools, colleges and universities via its free, dynamic, searchable database and matching and reporting system (www.workandlearnindiana.com). WLI is a program of the Institute for Workforce Excellence, which is a subsidiary of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

In this exclusive *BizVoice*[®] Digital story, we take a closer look at four of the honorees. Learn more about all the winners at www.workandlearnindiana.com/impact-awards.

Honorees:

- College Intern of the Year: Jenna Burow, Purdue University (Fishers)
- High School Intern of the Year: Shelby Rosenberger, Franklin County High School (Brookville)
- Non-Traditional Intern of the Year: Dana Perez, The Children's Museum (Indianapolis)
- College Career Development Professional of the Year: Kathy Kassissieh, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Terre Haute)
- High School Career Development Professional of the Year: Eric Feller, Oldenburg Academy (Oldenburg)
- Intern Supervisor of the Year: Kameron Utter, Quest Safety Products Inc. (Indianapolis)
- Employer of the Year (For-Profit): Corteva Agriscience (Indianapolis)
- Employer of the Year (Non-Profit): Indiana Park and Recreation Association (Noblesville)
- David R. McKinnis Community Partner Award: Teresa Lubbers, Indiana Commission for Higher Education (Indianapolis)

Jenna Burow (Purdue University)

College Intern of the Year

To many, forensics is a fascinating and challenging field. For Jenna Burow, it's a potential career and an enduring passion.

She's been interning with the Fishers Police Department, primarily in the forensics unit, since 2017. When COVID-19 led to the elimination of her paid internship position in 2020, Burow persevered, requesting to continue as a volunteer.

Among her accomplishments are earning a designation as a certified evidence technician and drone operator. She's qualified to respond to/process crime scenes and trained to deploy the police department drone to search for missing children, endangered people and criminal suspects. She also serves on the Indiana Division of the International Association of Identification, a rare distinction for an intern.

Her supervisor, Sgt. Jim Hawkins, cites her mentoring skills as a strength: "Jenna sees the value in training her replacement. She cares enough about the forensics unit that she has purposefully cultivated relationships with other interns to develop future leadership within the lab."

Burow has excelled in applying critical thinking and problem-solving capabilities. She created an interactive lesson plan that she has implemented as an instructor, teaching classes for the Fishers Police Department Teen Academy and Cadet Program.

Shelby Rosenberger (Franklin County High School)

High School Intern of the Year

Shelby Rosenberger was interested in pursuing internships at Franklin County United Way (Brookville) and Laurel Elementary School (Batesville). The result? Take on both!

"She is passionate about the counseling field and helping others," declares Jacque Barricklow, senior internship supervisor at Franklin County High School in Brookville.

Rosenberger embodies empathy and professionalism when maintaining confidential information about students and their families.

"At 17, she is very mature in handling this responsibility," Barricklow reflects. "She works closely with a group of students on Fridays and has participated in special events with them."

Rosenberger enjoys inspiring others and demonstrating leadership. When students were participating in a Girls on the Run Practice 5K, for instance, she wrote positive messages in chalk on a running course. In addition, she impressed Pam Gutzwiller, school counselor at Laurel Elementary School, by meeting with students and completing tasks on her behalf when she was out of the office.

"Shelby is gaining practical skills, real-life experience of the school workplace – particularly in the school counseling field. However, no matter what career she chooses to pursue, she is a person I would want on my team," Gutzwiller comments.

Kameron Utter (Quest Safety Products, Inc.)

Intern Supervisor of the Year

In 2016, Kameron Utter was Quest Safety Products' first student intern. Today, he's the intern supervisor and leader of the intern program along with serving as e-commerce sales manager.

Utter partnered with Marian University (where he graduated in 2017) and other higher education institutions across Indiana to design

the intern program. Quest's internship opportunities encompass marketing, accounting, finance, operations, procurement and e-commerce.

Coaching is an integral component of his leadership. New professionals (interns and full-time employees) learn from a business culture training model he created.

"Kam's story is especially meaningful as it speaks to the value of work-based learning and cyclical nature of paying this experience forward and giving back," observes Alice D. Susemichel, director of employer relations at Marian University. "Kam takes the time to meet, learn about, understand the desires of and assist each intern in the program professionally. He desires to see each of them grow to their potential. Most importantly, he builds a vision and mission for each intern starting with the WHY what is done for customers is so important. In doing so, he builds a work team that is collaborative and hungry, humble and kind."

Corteva Agriscience

Employer of the Year (For-Profit)

The research and development (R&D) division at Corteva Agriscience recruits and trains undergraduate and graduate interns across all facets of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. In addition to helping hone on-the-job skills, internships at Corteva provide opportunities to network and give back.

Departmental internships are offered in areas such as R&D (data science, plant biology, plant pathology, insect biology, herbicide biology, molecular biology, engineering and chemistry), field science, operation, formulation and sales divisions. "The data generated by these intern projects contribute significantly in one of the main values of Corteva, which is "innovate boldly," asserts research investigator Alamgir Rahman.

Corteva conducts two virtual events held to educate prospective interns nationwide about Corteva values and culture. In addition, the Indy Intern Management Team organizes social and professional events that include:

- weekly coffee sessions;
- volunteering at the "Harvest for Hunger Garden" initiative combatting food insecurity;
- celebrating national Intern Day with an ice cream social;
- speed networking sessions that connect Corteva researchers/employees from various divisions with interns;
- seminar series featuring Corteva employee speakers from different divisions;
- observing the most recent bee apiary at Corteva as part of the Bee Friendly Initiative, which involves designing and developing insecticides with highly desirable pollinator friendly profiles; and
- poster competitions at the internship's conclusion in which interns present research findings as a poster or through a two-minute live presentation in front of an audience.

"As a member of the Corteva Agriscience Indiana Intern Management Team, I can truly testify about the dedication, time and effort put into place by Corteva Agriscience for mentoring and training interns each year," Rahman reflects. "Since 2019, we have hired 26-30 interns at the Indianapolis site each year, and we are poised to hire 26 interns in 2022, which speaks volumes of dedication in cultivating young and bright minds both locally and nationally to develop long-term assets for agricultural/STEM-related fields."

RESOURCE: Work and Learn Indiana at www.workandlearnindiana.com

Full list of IMACT Award winners and nominees at www.workandlearnindiana.com/impact-award