News - Auburn Public Library

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Auburn Public Library

Auburn Public Library selected for 2018 Inclusive Internship Initiative

Auburn Public Library joins 50 other libraries from 35 US states in hosting interns from diverse backgrounds

Auburn Public Library, part of the Piedmont Regional Library System, is participating in a connected learning internship program this summer sponsored by the Public Library Association (PLA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Through its Inclusive Internship Initiative (III), PLA is sponsoring paid, mentored public library internships for 50 high school juniors and seniors from diverse backgrounds. With individual guidance from a mentor, each intern will engage with multiple facets of library life, from administration to programming to user services. Over the course of the summer, interns and mentors will develop and complete a project related to the intern’s interests.

This project will have an immediate benefit to the libraries and student participants. Library staff will better understand early career pathways to librarianship and gain appreciation for their role and impact in supporting diversity along those paths. Students will better understand the many ways librarians positively serve their communities, and gain the tools to make decisions about the educational directions that will lead them into library
service and leadership. Interns will have opportunities to connect with one another, and mentors across the country, to share what they are learning and doing through live and virtual channels, creating a ripple effect of learning and awareness.

Auburn Public Library selected Emily Brooks as its intern for summer 2018. Emily, a 2018 Apalachee High School graduate, will enter her freshman year at the University of North Georgia this fall. The selection was made based on Emily’s academic standing, application essay, and letters of recommendation. Emily will work closely with her appointed mentor, Library Manager Belinda Outwater, throughout the internship on her connected learning project, an oral history of the City of Auburn. Ms. Outwater and Emily traveled to Washington, DC in June for the initiative’s summer kick-off event, and they will be in Chicago in September for the wrap-up and intern presentations.

This program is funded by the PLA with support from a pre-professional Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant (grant RE-00-17-0129-17) from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

About PLA: The Public Library Association (PLA) is the largest association dedicated to supporting the unique and evolving needs of public library professionals. Founded in 1944, PLA serves nearly 10,000 members in public libraries large and small in communities across the United States and Canada, with a growing presence around the world. PLA strives to help its members shape the essential institution of public libraries by serving as an indispensable ally for public library leaders.

Additional information about the Inclusive Internship Initiative can be found at https://apply.ala.org/plinterns2018