



University of Nebraska-Lincoln

# Summer 2016 Internship Program

Partners in Pollution Prevention ▲ UNL-Department of Biological Systems Engineering  
234 Chase Hall ▲ Lincoln, NE 68583-0726  
Phone 402-472-3431 ▲ Fax 402-472-6338  
Website: [www.p3.unl.edu](http://www.p3.unl.edu)

## ► What's in it for Nebraska companies?

- Potential cost savings
- Fresh perspectives and new ideas for pollution prevention (P2) and sustainability
- Bright, energetic students to assist with on-site P2 projects
- Expertise in P2 that may improve operating efficiency, save money, reduce pollution and waste, conserve resources, and/or reduce burden of regulatory compliance
- Project guidance from UNL environmental and manufacturing engineers to help solve problems within your industry
- An opportunity to identify college graduates for future employment
- A written report complete with an analysis of relevant waste streams, and P2 recommendations for cost and environmental savings based on applied research.

***Among the 200 projects reassessed over the last 10 years, 80% of the clients implemented at least one recommendation and 40% of all recommendations made were implemented, saving businesses on average \$8000 per business/per year. The recommendations made also resulted in major reductions in solid and hazardous waste generation and significantly conserved water and energy resources.***

## ► P3 program goals

1. **Teaching** students and business people source reduction and sustainability methods; providing hands-on experience in reducing pollution and waste in an industrial/business setting using P2 strategies.
2. Conducting **outreach** with Nebraska businesses; providing technical assistance to help businesses save money, reduce waste, and become more sustainable.
3. Using applied **research** to assist Nebraska businesses with site specific source reduction and sustainability projects; providing companies with specific, well-developed options for environmental and cost savings.

## ► Eligibility requirements for companies

*For a full time intern, businesses must be:*

- Located in Nebraska
- Committed to reducing or eliminating pollution and waste through pollution prevention/source reduction methods
- Willing to pay a portion of the cost of the intern (typically \$4,000)
- Committed to providing day-to-day supervision of the intern
- Able to provide intern with desk, phone, computer, and internet access

## What is the P3 intern program?

The Partners in Pollution Prevention (P3) program has been providing technical assistance for businesses since 1997.

The program places student interns with Extension offices, in industrial facilities or in small businesses to help identify, evaluate, and implement resource conservation and pollution prevention projects.

Approximately 10 interns will be available to provide full-time technical assistance during 10-week summer internships in 2016.

**P3 . . . A Partnership of:**



Nebraska Department of  
Environmental Quality



US EPA Region 7

## Summer Projects

Full-time summer interns are scheduled for 10 weeks of field work with businesses from **late May to early August**. Projects are developed into work plans that fit within the work period and will be manageable for the intern. Unless otherwise requested, one intern is placed at each company. An intern's typical project will:

- analyze the company's current processes or operations,
- research and evaluate the options for reducing waste streams and conserving resources,
- work with the company's management and employees to determine the feasibility (cost and logistics) of different pollution and waste reduction options, and
- generate a final report, detailing recommendations and cost and environmental savings.

At the start of the project, the company and the P3 program will agree to the project goals, the project work plan, and the participant's roles. The intern will act as the project manager, responsible for carrying out the work plan and compiling a report of P2 recommendations. The company will designate a supervisor for the intern, and is responsible for ensuring management support of the project. The supervisor also will help facilitate the project by providing necessary information and resources and by promoting employee cooperation. UNL faculty and P3 program staff will be available to assist with technical support and to keep the project focused on pollution prevention/source reduction.

**Interns are not trained in, nor qualified to assess regulatory compliance issues.** When necessary for evaluating P2 options, the intern can interface with the Field Services and Assistance Division at NDEQ for advice or to make compliance assessments.

### ► P3 Program Project Examples

*Past Projects have included:*

- Assisting agricultural producers in their efforts to reduce water/energy use in irrigation systems
- Modifying a manufacturing process or piece of equipment to become more sustainable, i.e. eliminating or reducing solid waste, hazardous waste, air emissions, water or energy usage and/or wastewater effluents
- Developing in-house training programs focusing on sustainability
- Replacing hazardous chemicals with less toxic alternatives or alternative processes
- Housekeeping and preventative maintenance for specific processes
- Modifying process monitoring to reduce defect or scrap rates

### ► Intern Requirements

P3 student interns are juniors and seniors majoring in a technical field (Engineering, Science, or Technology programs). Most interns in the past have been Biological, Chemical, Industrial, Mechanical or Civil Engineering majors. The interns receive about \$5,800 for the summer as well as 3 hours of course credit. Businesses may ask their own student employees to apply to this program with the understanding that if the business' project is selected, that student will be assigned to their project.

### ► Matching Interns with Businesses

The P3 Project Team will review the business projects submitted, and rank them based on potential for waste reduction, commitment to P2, and willingness to share information with other companies. Top ranked projects will be given priority in the process of matching interns with clients.

After receiving student intern applications, the P3 Project Team will interview the interns by phone and identify the best matches between business projects and intern's technical and geographic interests and background. When an intern-business match is identified (typically in late February to mid March), the business will review the intern's application, and then interview the potential intern (either in person or by phone). After the interview the business may be asked to make a formal commitment to participate in the P3 program.

### How to Apply

Contact either:  
Bruce Dvorak at [bdvorak1@unl.edu](mailto:bdvorak1@unl.edu) or  
call 402-472-3431

Robert Williams [williams2@unl.edu](mailto:williams2@unl.edu)

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*Submission of an application expresses  
interest, but entails no formal commitment.*

Application materials are on the P3 website:  
[www.p3.unl.edu](http://www.p3.unl.edu)