



15th Annual RTI Internship Showcase



Celebrating 15 years with #RTI_Interns

Welcome to the 15th Annual RTI Internship Showcase

As RTI International honors its 65th anniversary of improving the human condition, the RTI Internship Program is celebrating 15 years of its signature annual event. At the conclusion of each summer, interns share their achievements with RTI staff and university partners, their family and friends, and members of the community at the Annual RTI Internship Showcase. The showcase highlights the accomplishments of our interns and recognizes RTI staff who have exuded exceptional mentorship.

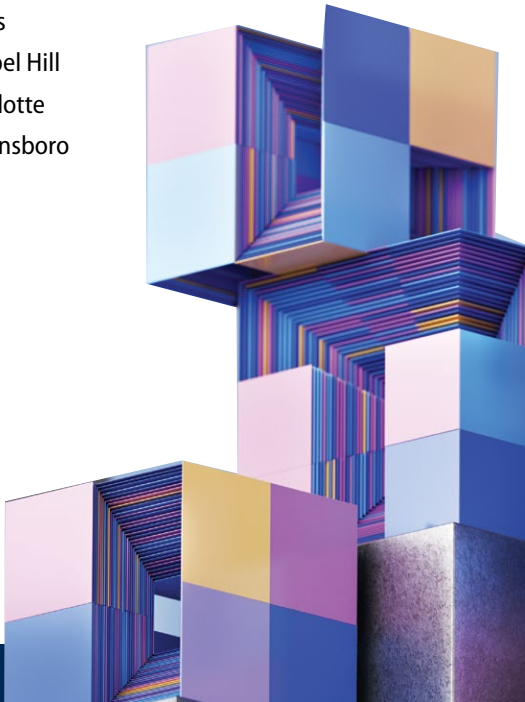
The internship showcase booklet features:

- Summer 2023 Interns Cohort Overview
- Celebration Video | Meet our Summer 2023 Interns
- The RTI Difference | Intern Experiences and Professional Development
- Internship Showcase Presentations
- Outstanding Mentor Awardees
- Special Acknowledgements

Summer 2023 Interns Cohort Overview

In all, 100 interns from 17 U.S. states and the country of Tanzania participated in our summer cohort. They represent 44 academic institutions.

American University	Prairie View A&M University
Appalachian State University	Rhode Island School of Design
Bennett College	Sacred Heart University
Boise State University	Texas State University
Brandeis University	Tulane University
Campbell University	University of Alberta
Coastal Carolina University	University of California, Berkeley
College of Holy Cross	University of Dayton
Columbia University	University of Illinois
Cornell University	University of Maryland
Davidson College	University of Miami
Duke University	University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
East Carolina University	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Florida State University	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Furman University	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
George Washington University	University of Pennsylvania
Howard University	University of Richmond
New York University	University of Southern California
North Carolina A&T State University	University of Texas
North Carolina Central University	Vanderbilt University
North Carolina School of Science & Mathematics	Washington University in St. Louis
North Carolina State University	Yale University



Meet our Summer 2023 Interns



The RTI Difference | Intern Experiences and Professional Development

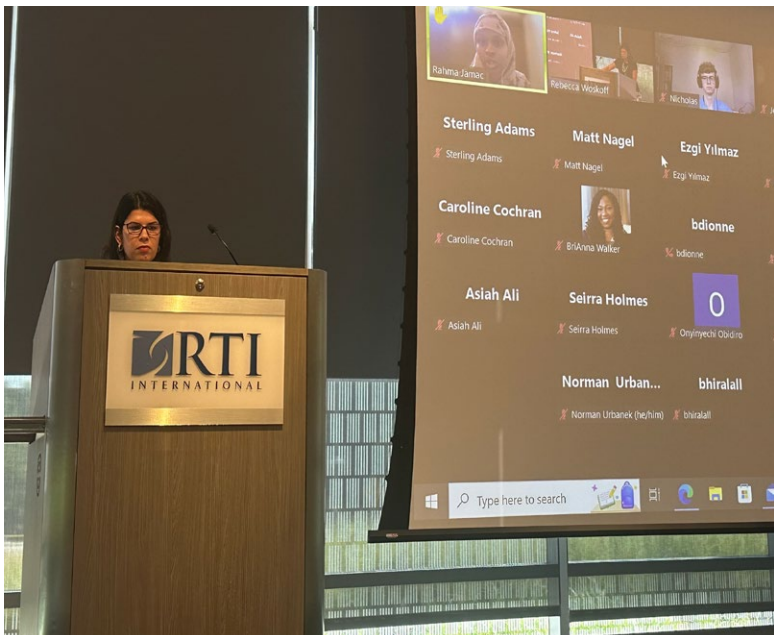
Program participants engaged in hybrid internships that promoted career advancement and collaboration. Internship scopes of work included: library and information sciences, engineering, finance, sustainable energy, consulting, microplastics, health communication, public safety, global public health, business development, water resource management, marketing, proposal management, and legal.

Each summer, interns embark on a customized professional development journey. Our summer workshops focused on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB), leadership development, professional writing and research publications, and proposal development. Workshops were facilitated by RTI staff, including former interns.

The RTI Internship Program intentionally creates experiences that explore career pathways, encourage a growth mindset for working in a global workforce, communication skills, and relationship building.



Summer Internships Annual Kickoff
Keynote Speaker: Bucky Fairfax, Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer



In our Leadership Development workshop, led by Rebecca Woskoff, Senior Learning & Organizational Development Consultant, interns dived into emotional intelligence while learning specific skills to leverage influence, produce positive results, and uphold authenticity in the workplace.



Caroline Cochran, Onyinyechi Obidiro, Ezgi Yilmaz, Trinitee Oliver, Kennedee Henry, and Graham Eisler connect at the RTI Washington, D.C. office.



Danielle Johnson (center), All of Us Researcher Academy Intern, spends time with staff at the RTI Atlanta, GA, office.

Staff pictured (left to right): Raahina Malik, Freda Green, Courtney Bonner, Marcel Foster, and Sula Hood.



Brooklyn Story, Environmental Health Outreach and Education Intern, participated in the Georgia Association for Learning Environments (GA4LE) Conference in Jekyll Island, Georgia. Brooklyn supported the RTI Clean Water for Georgia Kids™ Program exhibit and served as a conference speaker for RTI’s presentation on “Identifying and Eliminating Lead in Drinking Water.”



Luncheon with the RTI Executive Leadership Team
Staff pictured (left to right): BriAnna Walker, Senior Program Specialist, Internship Program and Student Engagement Manager
Tim Gabel, President and CEO
Amy Roussel, Executive Vice President, Social, Statistical & Environmental Sciences
Paul Weisenfeld, Executive Vice President, International Development Group
Edward Story, Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Bucky Fairfax, Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer

RTI Internship Showcase Presentations

Thank you to our presenters, their supervisors and mentors, and additional RTI staff who contributed to this event! You can access the showcase presentations below.

DAY 1 | August 3, 2023

Location: 3040 East Cornwallis Road, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Session A

Business Development Capture and Proposals | Center for Applied Economics & Strategy | CFO Organization-Controller's Office

[Exploring the Cosmos: Case Studies in Radio Astronomy & Aerospace Industries](#)

SSES - Center for Applied Economics & Strategy

Sterling Adams
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

[From Secondary to Primary Proposal Managers: Our Experience](#)

SSES - Business Development Capture and Proposals

Liahona Willcoxon
North Carolina State University
Josephine Geraghty
North Carolina State University
Caroline Hoch
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

[Through the Eyes of an Intern](#)

CFO Organization - Controller's Office

Benjamin Dionne
East Carolina University

[Mind the GAAP: An Accounting Internship](#)

CFO Organization - Controller's Office

Madison McPherson
Appalachian State University

Session B

Center for Environmental Health Risk and Sustainability | Policing Strategies | Substance Use, Gender and Applied Research

[Life as a Public Safety Research Intern](#)

SSES - Policing Strategies

Cheryl Oppan
University of Richmond

[Five Key Reentry Research Project](#)

SSES - Policing Strategies

Zian Richmond
Prairie View A&M University

[Get The Lead Out: Environmental Health Outreach and Education](#)

SSES - Center for Environmental Health Risk and Sustainability

Brooklyn Story
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

[Substance Use, Gender and Applied Research \(SUGAR\) Internship](#)

SSES - Substance Use, Gender and Applied Research

Poonam Rawat
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

[My Internship Experience: Professional and Personal Growth at RTI](#)

SSES - Substance Use, Gender and Applied Research

Brianna Pascarelli
Brandeis University

Session C

Analytical Sciences | Exposure & Protection | Clinical Research

[Various Projects Supporting](#)

[ECHO Study](#)

SSES - Clinical Research

Sarah Hartman
North Carolina State University

[Our Biostatistician Internship Experience](#)

SSES - Clinical Research

Ryan Moore
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Claire Chu
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

[Shelton Jones Statistical Internship](#)

SSES - Official Statistics

Silas Huckins
North Carolina State University

[Characterizing the Impact of Microplastics on Human Epithelial Lung Cells](#)

DS - Analytical Sciences

Zahkura Eastman
North Carolina Central University

[Sampson County Air Quality Research Pre-Pilot](#)

TAC - Exposure & Protection

Norman Urbanek
North Carolina State University

RTI Internship Showcase Presentations

Thank you to our presenters, their supervisors and mentors, and additional RTI staff who contributed to this event! You can access the showcase presentations below.

DAY 2 | August 4, 2023 Location: ZOOM Time: 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Breakout Room 1: Center for Communication & Engagement Research | All of Us Researcher Academy Interns | SSES

All of Us Researcher Academy Internship: Neighborhood and Sleep Disorder Disparities	Toluwanimi Oladapo Howard University
Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mental Healthcare Access and Utilization	Kennedee Henry Howard University
Factors Influencing Susceptibility to Triple Negative Breast Cancer	Onyinyechi Obidiro Howard University
Mental and Metabolic Health: How Side Effects of Antipsychotic Drugs for Schizophrenia Treatment Influence Type 2 Diabetes in All of Us	Danielle Johnson Howard University
An Exploration of the Atopic Triad in the All of Us Dataset v7	Trinitee Oliver Howard University
Genetic Association on Acute Chest Syndrome A Common Comorbidity in Sickle Cell Disease	Ifeoluwakitan Onasanya Howard University

Breakout Room 2: Center for Applied Economics & Strategy | GenOmics

Genome-Wide Association Study on Opioid Use Disorder SSES - GenOmics	Wendy Deng University of Pennsylvania Rahma Jamac University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Neglected Tropical Diseases: Cost Effectiveness of Innovative Diagnostic Methods During a Trachoma Impact Survey in Tanzania and Mozambique SSES - Center for Applied Economics & Strategy	Ezgi Yilmaz Cornell University
MedTech Political Economy Analysis SSES - Center for Applied Economics & Strategy	Matthew Rowell Columbia University

Breakout Room 3: Business Development and Finance

Accounting and Financial Analyst Intern Experience CFO Organization - Accounting and Finance	Matthew Nagel Florida State University
SSES Small Business Partnerships SSES - Business Development, Small Business Office	Trinity Cromwell Bennett College
Our RTI Internship Experience SSES Finance (Finance Analytics and Pricing)	Rebecca Bierfeldt University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Aidan Gallagher Duke University Ryann Robinson North Carolina A&T State University Luke Sales University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Breakout Room 4: Business Development | Innovation | Health Coverage | Substance Use, Gender and Applied Research

RTI Innovation Advisors Sustainability Focus Internship Experience Innovation Consulting	Samantha Feinstein University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
NVivo Tools for Qualitative Analysis SSES - Substance Use, Gender and Applied Research	Aminah Olayinka Isiaq University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
SUGAR Summer Internship SSES - Substance Use, Gender and Applied Research	Jasmine Benner Michigan State University
Sustainable Growth & Resilience Business Development IDG - Business Development	Vitaliy Sharlai Washington University in St. Louis
Clinical, Behavioral, and Social Drivers of Excess Mortality in 2020–2022 in the United States SSES - Health Coverage for Low-income & Uninsured Populations	Christina van Hal University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

RTI Outstanding Mentor Awards

Each summer, interns nominate staff for the RTI Interns Outstanding Mentor Award. Awardees are selected through a blind judging process. Our 2023 Outstanding Mentors created transformational experiences for interns in the following areas:

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Inclusivity
- Innovation
- Talent Development

Congratulations to Chad Downey, Kayla Messier Jones, Garrett McKeown-Wessler, and Heather White



Chad Downey, Associate Director

Nominated by Cheryl Oppan, Public Safety Research Intern
Political Science, University of Richmond

"My mentor offered constructive advice about how to excel in my career and the tools I would need to accomplish my goals. In one of our conversations, Chad said, 'Figure out who you want to be in the world and align yourself with things that will help you figure that out.' Because of his mentorship, I have gained confidence in identifying the motives behind my career aspirations."



Kayla Messier Jones, Innovation Analyst

Nominated by Samantha Feinstein, Innovation Consulting Intern, Sustainability
Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"Kayla has been extremely supportive of me by providing clear guidance and always holding space for me to ask any and all questions. Because of her guidance and patience, I feel much better equipped to continue working in consulting after my internship."



Garrett McKeown-Wessler, PhD, Innovation Analyst

Nominated by Yasmin Roye, Innovation Consulting Intern, Commercialization Focus
Biomedical Engineering, Duke University

"The biggest change in myself is that I want to be as good a mentor to someone else as Garrett was to me. Seeing how much Garrett has accomplished thus far in his nontraditional career is really inspiring and gives me more confidence to continue."



Heather White, Senior Proposal Development Specialist

Nominated by Josephine Geraghty, Proposal Development Intern
Sustainability Sciences, North Carolina State University

"Throughout the internship, Heather's mentorship has allowed me to gain confidence as I operate in a professional environment. I have more clarity in understanding what I may want to do after I complete my masters."

Special Acknowledgments

The RTI Internship Program, including the Internship Showcase, is an institute-wide effort. Colleagues from across RTI invest in our interns and their success. I cannot thank them enough for sharing their time and expertise.

– BriAnna Walker, Senior Program Specialist, Internship Program and Student Engagement Manager

The RTI University Collaboration Office

The University Collaboration Office (UCO) advances growth in RTI's impact, scientific stature, innovation, and financial strength through partnerships with academic institutions. The UCO has administered the RTI Internship Program since 2014, with a focus on developing and sustaining enriching experiences for students and recent graduates. The UCO administers bilateral and multilateral university partnerships, including Forethought: The \$5M+ Research Collaboration Challenge and the RTI University Scholars Program.



Katie Bowler Young

Operations Director
Interim UCO Lead



BriAnna Walker

Senior Program Specialist,
Internship Program and Student
Engagement Manager



Spencer Collins

Operations Assistant, Internship
Program



Joanna Wyllie Haynes

Senior Administrative Assistant



Grace Croitoru

Business Coordinator



RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world.

For more information, visit www.rti.org.

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