

Women in Science Project  
Research Internship Program



*What Makes a Successful  
Internship?*

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# ***Agenda:***

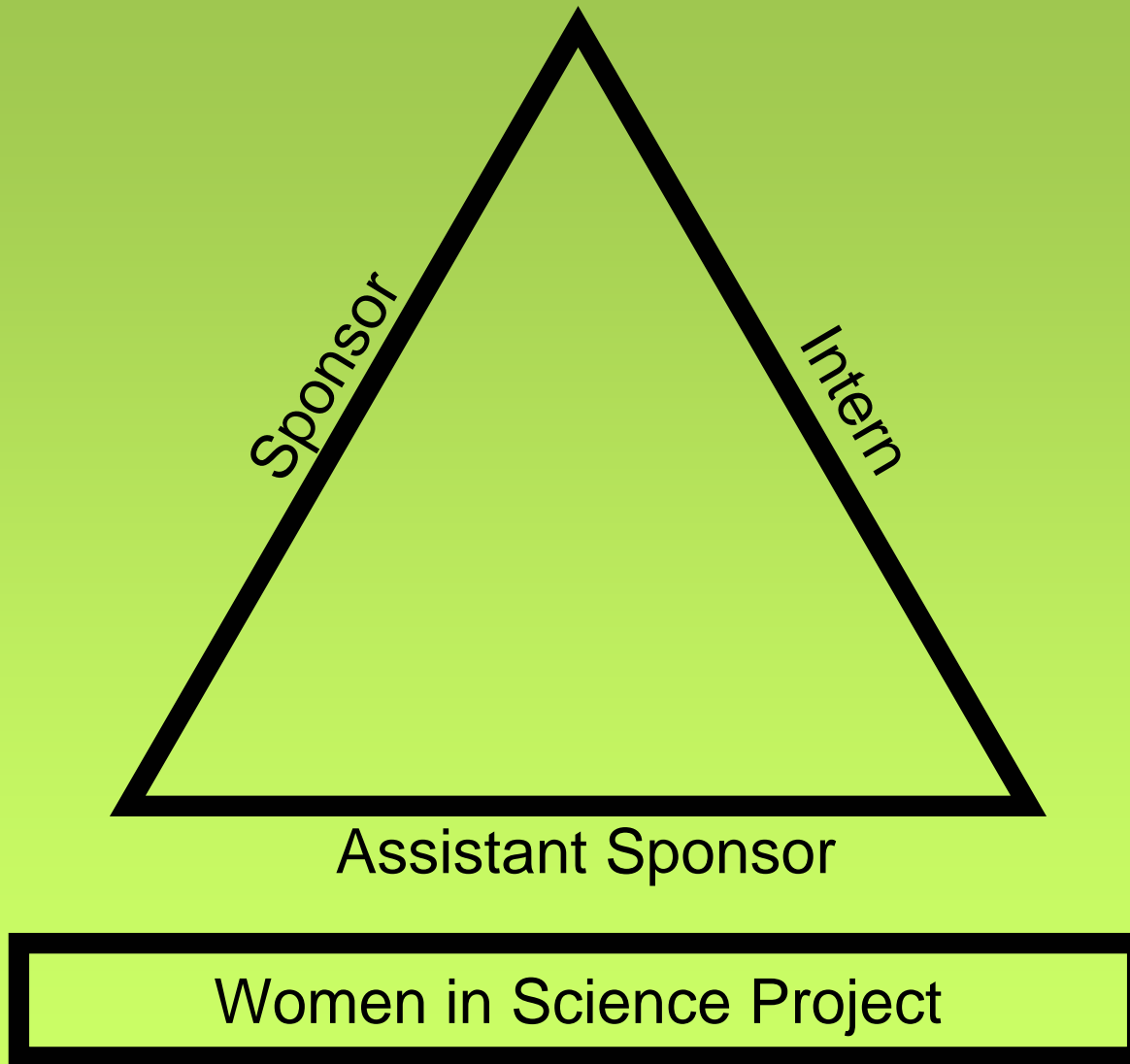
1. Introductions
2. Goals for the internship program
3. Roles, relationships, expectations
4. Timeline—taking stock
5. WISP intern profile
6. Ingredients for mutually successful internship
7. Q&A

# ***Goals for Internship Program:***

- Hands-on, active learning experience to supplement introductory science and math classes
- Break down stereotypic impressions regarding scientists, engineers, the culture of research and the process of scientific inquiry
- Build skills and self-confidence  
*and...*

- Personal connections with sponsors and assistant sponsors that might develop into mentoring relationships
- Insight on scientific careers, lifestyle and guidance in adjusting to college level studies that may encourage persistence in science
- Non-graded learning in an atmosphere of encouragement and support

# *Roles and Relationships*



— *Roles and Relationships* —

## ***Role of Sponsors***

- Ultimately responsible for intern's experience— including their safety, their learning goals & poster presentation
- May share with or delegate some responsibilities to assistant sponsors
- Works in close collaboration with volunteer assistant sponsors

— *Roles and Relationships* —

## ***Role of Assistant Sponsors***

- Point of contact when sponsor not available, possibly the *primary* contact
- Provides day-to-day supervision, structure & feedback to intern
- Understands & may help design the sponsor's project expectations for the intern

- Keeps sponsor informed, works in collaboration with sponsor and intern
- May sign intern's bi-weekly timesheet
- Provides a learning environment with encouragement and support
- Guides intern in their development of a year end poster for Wetterhahn Science Poster Symposium

— *Roles and Relationships* —

## ***Role of WISP Staff***

- Plan, oversee and evaluate the program
- Provide resources for a *good start*
- Maintain communication with participants
- Serves as an intermediary if there are difficulties
- Always a point of contact (resource) for questions or issues that may arise

# ***WISP's Expectations for Interns:***

- Keep a positive attitude and an open mind to learning
- Stay fully committed to the internship
- Aim to work 8-10 hours/week
- Timesheets, pre-Q & post-Q, attend “roundtable”
- Prepare poster for year end symposium

*Thursday May 21-Friday May 22, 2009*

# Internship Timeline—Taking Stock

Winter term

Spring term

Internships begin

Classes end

Sponsor-intern review of expectations & goals

January

February

March

Re-establish work schedule with intern

Outline poster concept

Practice poster presentation

Refine poster concept

April

May

Poster titles due

WISP intern roundtable

Sponsor/assistant sponsor dinner

WISP poster prep session

WISP intern orientation

Wetterhahn Science Symposium

May 21-22, 2009

# WISP Intern Profile

*Bright, capable, motivated...inexperienced*

*Excerpts from 2009 WISP Pre-Internship Questionnaire*

*Upon entering Dartmouth:*

- **67.6%** felt well prepared in the sciences; **16.9%** did not
- **63.7%** felt well prepared in math, **15.6%** did not
- **68.8 %** felt that a major in science was very likely

After one term, **59.7%** felt that a major in science was very likely

# Factors that explain change in science major plans after one term

*I did badly in some science classes last term.*

*The materials I have studied so far are less interesting than I thought they would be*

*I did very poorly in Math 3, and I'm not sure if I'm smart enough to do well on the track I had laid out for myself.*

*Difficulty of classes and too many requirements*

*\*\*My WISP sponsor gave me a textbook to read over break in order to prepare for my internship. The book has raised so many questions for me and further piqued my interest in the field.*

# Areas of Uncertainty

*Schedule - The extent to which my research will develop - Workload*

*Whether we will be able to meet deadlines -- that is, whether I will have anything to report on my poster.*

*I don't know if I have enough background info -The time issue is present, but not overwhelming -I'm afraid about making mistakes in the experiments*

*What my role will be; how much work will be individual; which parts of the research will I be directly involved in*

# ***Ingredients for a Mutually Successful Internship***

- *Realistic project*
- *Good communication*
- *Clear expectations*

Q&A