The Hagen Center Civic Internship program launched at the end of May with a three-day orientation to support students in their internship experience, learn the habits of civic professionals, meet partners in the Springfield community, and get to know their fellow interns. This year, the orientation was organized around the theme "Having Light, Be Brave."

Each day started with a self-reflection and logistics, followed by a team builder and a session focused on developing the intern’s civic skills. The group also participated in community-related activities, from an art session by Lo Houser of Project Jericho and Jessimi Jones of the Springfield Museum of Art, a downtown tour by Kevin Rose, service projects at Second Harvest Food Bank and Springfield Promise Neighborhood, a Round Robin Session with community partners, and a session on public narrative by Dr. Cynthia Richards. Throughout the three days, interns tried some of the culinary delights of the community and at the end of the orientation the interns were ready to step bravely into their internships, with personal reflection and practical skills they could utilize throughout the summer.
These interns worked with organizations whose missions are natural conservation and/or maintaining community gardens. They did everything from weeding gardens, building sustainable structures to learning about the importance of food justice in the community.

Marketing, Communications, & Outreach

This group of interns helped organizations build their social media presence, market and plan events, provide educational outreach, and develop innovative communication tools.
Internship Celebration

More than 30 guests joined us for our celebration of the civic internship program on Thursday July 27th in the second-floor gallery of the Heritage Center. The interns created visual displays of their experience in the form of posters, digital slides, an artistic painting, an interactive game and survey, and even produce picked from their community garden. The audience heard from Kristen Collier, Associate Director of the Hagen Center, about the ways interns were brave this summer and listened to an audio of Amanda Gorman’s reading of her poem, *The Hill We Climb*, which inspired the Having Light, Be Brave theme for this year’s internship. She also thanked our donors, campus partners, site supervisors, interns as well as Warren Copeland (and a team of others) for helping to envision the program more than 15 years ago.

To see more pictures of the fun we had this summer, please visit our online photo album.

Thank You!

We would like to thank our sponsors for helping make this year’s summer internship program a huge success.

- The Matevia Internship Endowment
- The Springfield Foundation
- Steve and Mary Alice Neely
- Walter S. Quinlan Foundation
- Warren Copeland

Internship Sites

- Developmental Disabilities of Clark County
- Freedom School
- Hagen Center
- Heritage Center
- Little Art Theatre
- Partners in Prevention
- Project Woman
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Springfield Ohio Urban Plantfolk
- Springfield City Youth Mission
- Springfield Family YMCA
- Springfield Promise Neighborhood
- Tecumseh Land Trust
- United Way of Clark, Champaign & Madison Counties

These interns worked on--you guessed it! --special projects such as conducting needs assessments, developing surveys, presenting to boards, and helping improve day-to-day operations while learning about nonprofit administration.

Pictured clockwise: Isabel Travis, Kyngston Collins, Sydney Johnston, Madeline Diechman