

The Showker Institute for Responsible Leadership Presents: The Showker Award for Internship Excellence February 8, 2018

The Showker Award for Internship Excellence is offered by the Zane D. Showker Institute for Responsible Leadership. The institute's mission is to provide Bridgewater College students opportunities that develop skills needed to make them outstanding, responsible leaders, on and off campus.

The 2018 Showker Award for Internship Excellence will be bestowed upon three Bridgewater College students who have successfully completed an internship or practicum between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2017, and who, in conjunction with their site supervisor, submit the most compelling application for the award. Applications will consist of 1) the final paper written for the internship (or practicum) course, 2) a letter of recommendation from the internship (or practicum) site supervisor, and 3) a written essay articulating how the internship (or practicum) experience helped the applicant develop his/her leadership skills.

The goals for the Showker Award for Internship Excellence are to:

- Encourage students to attend to and develop leadership skills
- Encourage students to recognize leadership skills in their supervisors
- Encourage students to connect the leadership lessons learned during an internship (or practicum) to the broader liberal arts educational mission of Bridgewater College
- Encourage students to envision using their leadership knowledge and skills to enhance the Bridgewater College community
- Encourage local organizations to become more invested in the internship experience
- Enhance the reputation of both Bridgewater College and the sponsoring organizations as institutions that develop leaders of the future

The 2018 Showker Award for Internship Excellence will be awarded to three students and their site supervisors. The winning students will each receive a \$250 prize and will give a presentation on their internship (or practicum) experience at the February 8 convocation. The organizations who sponsored each winning student will be given a crystal trophy acknowledging their support of the internship (or practicum) experience. Internship and practicum site supervisors will be expected to attend the February 8 convocation and be part of the presentation.

Rules, Deadlines, & Important Dates

- To be eligible, a candidate must:
 - be a registered Bridgewater College student in the spring 2018 semester;
 - have successfully completed a minimum of 120 hours in a credited internship or practicum experience or a minimum of 120 hours in a non-credited internship with a clearly identified site supervisor between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2017;
 - complete the application essay and submit the supporting documents by Thursday, January 18, 2018; and
 - give a 10-12 minute presentation about the internship (or practicum) experience at the February 8 convocation program.

The Application Process

- The application can be found on the College's website and consists of the following documents:
 - For credited internships:
 - the final paper from the internship (or practicum) course
 - site supervisor letter of recommendation
 - a written personal essay
 - For non-credited internships and practicums:
 - a final paper or termination letter produced at the conclusion of the internship
 - site supervisor letter of recommendation
 - a written personal essay

Final Paper

At the completion of credited internships and practicums, students must write a 2-4 page paper. For credited internships and practicums, the guidelines for the paper are provided by BC Career Services. For non-credited internships, the guidelines will be provided on the website or can be requested from BC Career Services at ocs@bridgewater.edu.

Site Supervisor Letter of Recommendation

A letter of recommendation from one's site supervisor and on the organization's letterhead addressing the applicant's work ethic, contributions and development of leadership skills demonstrated during the internship or practicum and discussing the reasons why the applicant should win a leadership award based on the internship or practicum experience.

Personal Essay

Students applying for this award will write a personal essay (no longer than 3,000 words) that is distinctive from the final paper submitted for completion of the internship (or practicum) course, which addresses, in a broad sense, how the internship (or practicum) experience helped develop leadership skills and gave new perspectives and insight into the nature of leadership. The essay should address the following issues:

- What leadership skills did you develop personally and witness in your supervisor? How will these skills help you in your future? How can you use these skills in other aspects of your life and other areas of Bridgewater College?
- What were some issues/dilemmas with which you and/or your site supervisor had to deal? How did you handle them? What did you learn from them?
- How did your internship fit in with the liberal arts concept and the mission of Bridgewater College?
- How did you personally grow as a result of your internship?
- Discuss the relationship with your site supervisor and his/her ability to demonstrate responsible leadership to you.

If your application is chosen as one of the three winners of the award, you will be required to give a 10-12 minute presentation at the Internship Experience Convocation on the morning of Feb 8, 2018, with your supervisor. At this presentation YOU should discuss the themes from your essay in a presentational way and YOUR SITE SUPERVISOR (or, in extreme cases, a representative) should discuss the internship in

broad terms, what he/she is looking for in future interns and how an intern may be able to secure a job in the organization. The site supervisor's part of the presentation is an opportunity to pitch the company/organization as much as the specific intern getting the award.

Administration

All applications will be submitted to the panel of four reviewers who will determine the three winners. The panel will consist of 1) the Director of the Showker Institute for Responsible Leadership, 2) the Director of Career Services & Internships, 3) the Internship Coordinator for Career Services, and 4) a faculty member of Bridgewater College who has experience as a Cooperating Professor for internships or practicums.