

Lightning Talk

Partnering on a College Intern Program for Underrepresented Groups: A Model for Industry and Nonprofit Collaboration

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Internship Program History at Merjent

- ❑ Started in 2021 and in its fifth session
- ❑ Focus on involving underrepresented groups in the consulting industry
- ❑ Current and recently graduated college and graduate students
- ❑ Opportunities in marketing, tech edit, fieldwork, and environmental permitting
- ❑ Program growth: From one to four interns & from one to three divisions
- ❑ Serves in part as an avenue for new staff hires



Collaboration with Monarch Joint Venture

- ❑ In 2024, Merjent–Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) began collaborating through the intern program
- ❑ MJV provided training for the interns:
 - Monarch Mini-Essentials,
 - Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, and the
 - Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program
- ❑ Interns gained experience while assisting MJV:
 - Field Monitoring
 - Research Summaries
 - Outreach (North American Monarch Institute)
 - Grant Proposals
 - Summer Capstone Research on the History of Prairie Oaks



A Model for Industry and Nonprofit Collaboration

- ❑ In 2025, Merjent – Monarch Joint Venture internship collaboration is continuing
- ❑ Increased intern time available for MJV & ongoing group activities
- ❑ Win, win, win
 - Merjent
 - Monarch Joint Venture
 - Interns
- ❑ Collaboration expanding to sponsoring a local high school internship program
- ❑ A model for others in industry and the non-profit environmental sector to partner on internship programs?

