

# **2009 ED FORREST INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

For College Juniors, Seniors and Graduate Students

Return completed application to:

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Or, email electronic submissions to: [mkaras@town.winthrop.ma.us](mailto:mkaras@town.winthrop.ma.us)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

**February 15, 2009**

## **History**

Since 1982, GITA has been providing excellence in education and information exchange on the use and benefits of spatial information technologies for government, communication, infrastructure, and utility applications worldwide. GITA is a leader in providing financial assistance to students pursuing degrees in GIS-related areas. For the last several years, more than \$30,000 has been dedicated annually to rewarding academic excellence through scholarship and internship stipends.

In early 1996, GITA's Board of Directors continued its history of promoting education by establishing the Ed Forrest Educational Endowment. Ed Forrest was a champion of automation who concentrated on the application of computers to automate engineering and mapping-related activities. Until his death, Mr. Forrest was a strong supporter of GITA and frequently spoke at the association's conferences. In 1993, Mrs. Asta Forrest donated funds in honor of her husband to further the educational opportunities for those involved in geospatial studies. The internship program and other education initiatives are now funded through the Endowment.

## **Objective**

The Ed Forrest Internship Program was initiated to create opportunities for students who have made a commitment to study disciplines related to GIS to obtain practical experience in this field.

## **Program Description**

The Internship Program consists of two parts: 1) a competitive stipend program, and 2) an internship clearinghouse. This program is open to all students who are juniors or above and is currently enrolled in accredited colleges or universities. Participating GITA corporate sponsors, contributors, small business affiliates, user affiliates and other qualified GIS companies will place interns through the program. The program is designed for summer internships.

GITA will offer at least one \$2,000 stipend to a selected student to offset travel and living expenses incurred as a result of obtaining an internship (9-12 weeks) with one of the association's corporate members or other approved companies. The stipends are awarded on a competitive basis, selected from completed applications. Resumes of all students who complete the internship application will be included in the association's internship clearinghouse. Resumes will be circulated to GITA corporate member companies and other approved organizations, with individuals who are eligible for the stipend identified.

***Important:*** Internships are an arrangement between individual students and participating corporate members and approved organizations. GITA will make the required information available to all parties, but it is the individual student's responsibility to contact participating organizations concerning employment possibilities.

## **Stipend Distribution**

In order to receive the first stipend payment, the company providing the internship must provide documentation of the intern's responsibilities before the internship begins. The second stipend payment will be made after GITA has received notification from the company providing the internship that confirms the internship was completed successfully and a summary of the internship provided by the intern.

## **Chronology**

Interested students should complete and return the attached internship application **by February 15, 2009** to GITA. All student applications are sent to the organizations, with stipend recipients identified. A list of participating companies is sent to all participating students, including those who were not selected to receive a stipend. Students who do not receive a stipend but still complete an internship are asked to submit a brief report following completion of the internship. The report should contain an assessment of the value of the internship in regards to their future career.

## **Requirements**

- Be a currently matriculating student pursuing a GIS-related degree.
- Complete the entire application. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- If a stipend winner would like to intern at a company other than a corporate member of GITA, the intern must submit the company name, contact, address, phone and fax. Also included, for approval by GITA, is a description of what type of GIS work the organization performs.
- The internship stipend winner is required to notify GITA of the internship **by June 26, 2009**.
- The internship must be completed **by December 31, 2009**. Following completion of the internship, the winner must also provide GITA with a brief report that contains an assessment of value of the internship award to the student in regards to their future career.

## **Evaluation of Applications**

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria.

1. Scope and Content
2. Recommendations
3. Academic Record
4. Studies Toward GIS
5. Extracurricular Activities