Proposed Initiative: UWRF Internship Opportunity Office

Proposed by: Glenn Spiczak (physics) and Timothy Lyden (biology)

What strategic goal does this initiative support?
Distinctive Academic Excellence; Global Education and Engagement; Innovation and Partnerships

Describe how the initiative supports the goal(s).

Distinctive Academic Excellence – Helping more students obtain successful internships outside UWRF will help differentiate UWRF throughout the state and beyond as a national leader in undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity.

Global Education and Engagement – Helping more students obtain successful internships abroad will help UWRF distinguish itself among national leaders in internationalization among similar universities.

Innovation and Partnerships – Helping more students obtain successful internships related to sustainable community development supports student learning via hands-on real-world experiences, enhances the distinctiveness and stature of the university, and catalyzes economic community development.

Based on the definition of university-wide initiative, indicate how the proposed initiative has a university-wide impact.
All university students would be able to take advantage of a centralized clearinghouse for internship opportunities that would consolidate the numerous announcements that arrive throughout the year for all types of student interests and abilities, help publicize those for specific disciplines, seek out applicants, highlight deadlines, track numbers of applicants and awards, etc.

Please provide a set of benchmarks and/or indicators of success to support your initiative.

What elements are involved in the initiative?
Sustainability, Inclusiveness, Human Capital, Technology, Facilities, Finance

Indicate how each element would be/would not be affected by the initiative.

- **Sustainability:** A dedicated internship office/online portal would go a long way toward sustaining UWRF support of undergraduate research, scholarly, and creative activity. Without such, the varying efforts of different individuals around campus who are also immersed in numerous other activities, whether they are motivated faculty or graduating students, cannot sustain the consistency and focus needed in one place so that students know where to go to find such information.

- **Inclusiveness:** All students can benefit from a concentrated effort to help them locate and obtain internships, especially first-time college students, minority or disadvantaged students.

- **Human Capital:** A dedicated long-term staff person (or persons) responsible for this endeavor is key.

- **Technology:** This office would maintain an online portal for such opportunities that would be publicized across campus, where such opportunities could be uploaded, categorized, searched, viewed, etc. A computer and internet would be needed.
- **Facilities:** This office would need to occupy a small physical space, or at least a chair, desk, and computer within an already existing space on campus. No new construction is anticipated to be necessary.
- **Finance:** The person (or persons) responsible for this would be paid university staff. It’s possible that such duties could be added to an existing position if it is deemed not to require full-time effort, but this would depend on the ultimate scope of the position.
- **Other:**