

CALLING ALL WATER WONKS!
Fall 2011 Internships Available for NATIONAL WATER EDUCATION CENTER
Development Initiative and WATERCAT CONSULTING

Now accepting internship applications for Fall 2011 as interns for creation of the National Water Education Center through Watercat Consulting LLC. Academic credit may be available. All majors accepted, particularly students interested in interactive communications; education; entrepreneurship and social enterprise; nonprofit management, accounting, and law; environmental science and policy. This internship will provide students with an opportunity to work with Watercat Consulting (see www.watercatconsulting.com) on the creation of a new not-for-profit initiative called the **National Water Education Center (NWEC)**.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL WATER EDUCATION CENTER (NWEC): The mission of the National Water Education Center (NWEC) is to create and provide capacity-building support for a national community of professional and non-professional water education, outreach, and communication organizations, programs, and individuals. NWEC will begin on-line and will identify, profile, and remotely assemble water education efforts and water educators throughout the US to share their insights, knowledge, and resources. **WHY IS NWEC NEEDED?** Funding for water education is typically limited to education associated with advocacy, permitting and project development, and some academic research or university programs. A larger portion of water education activity appears to occur through nonprofessional, local, grass-roots programs. Getting new information on water policy and programs, funding opportunities, or research findings to water educators can be challenging, as this information is often disseminated through conferences and professional journals, which are not accessible to many of the individuals directly involved in water education. This virtual Center will bring together a more cohesive interactive self-monitoring community (initially on-line) of individuals and programs in water education to interact more directly with one another; build capacity for education on water issues – presenting various views and materials without “taking sides” – to identify “what works” in water education and communications; support activities to raise the national level of awareness and understanding of water; provide a means of evaluating and assessing water education approaches; and enhance conversion and transfer of new water science and policy to education programs that reach various audiences.

ABOUT WATERCAT CONSULTING LLC: Watercat Consulting, LLC is an international, woman-owned consulting practice which serves as a catalyst for innovative approaches to sustainable water resources policy and management. Founded in 2007, Watercat offers a multidisciplinary understanding of communications, educational program development and implementation, policy development and implementation, environmental management, hydrogeology and hydrology, water resources engineering, planning and systems analysis. Headquartered on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, Watercat works with mission-driven clients, including; federal, state/provincial, and local government agencies; association and nonprofits, and private entities in efforts to incorporate

innovative solutions to sustainable water management of water resources in accordance with their organizational missions.

INTERNSHIP SKILLS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: This exciting internship will give students a chance to work on the creation of an innovative approach to organization-building and water education. Students will be actively engaged in the creation of: An initial weblog on water education; initial products and services in water education, including online and experiential multimedia programs; branding, handouts, website, and communications plan; free and paid-access information, including online guides to water education programs, water organizations, conferences and events; funding support to cover expenses through sponsored adspace and funding proposals; mission and business plan, membership, board and management structure; not-for-profit accounting and business systems; support in-person presentations by NWECE Director and materials for upcoming conferences in DC and elsewhere including the WaterReuse National Symposium in Phoenix; Global Water Awareness and Education Strategy at the United Nations in NYC; Ground Water Protection Council/Water-Energy Symposium in Atlanta; Water Innovations Alliance Symposium in Boston, and more to come.

ABOUT THE INTERNSHIPS: Interns will work individually and as teams on tasks and subtasks, and have opportunity to assume lead responsibility for specific tasks. Position requires self-direction, ability to work in groups in supporting and leadership roles, and the ability to adjust quickly to new developments. Must maintain a positive attitude while performing a range of tasks, and to meet short-term and long-term deadlines. Preference given to applicants with prior work experience and graduate students. Interns will work under the direction of NWECE Director Cat Shrier, Ph.D., P.G., with additional support from and access to leaders in the water industry, water agencies, and water education programs nationwide. Internship may also require some work at Watercat headquarters on Capitol Hill (Eastern Market metro), and may include attendance at briefings by guest speakers and area meetings on water issues and water education. Students may also receive course credit, and are responsible for ensuring arrangements are made with their advisers/departments.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Eligible applicants will be students enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs. Students from a wide range of disciplines encouraged to apply, but should demonstrate a strong interest in water issues, policy, and education. **Applicants must submit: a cover letter stating their interest in the program; fall schedule (courses and other activities); a writing sample; resume; contact information for two references (one professional, one academic), and copy of transcript.** Applications must be received by email (cat@watercatconsulting.com) no later than Tuesday, September 6, 2011, with interviews to be held that week. For questions, contact Cat Shrier by phone/text at 202-344-7894 or cat@watercatconsulting.com.