Summer Job/Intern Project
Urban Tree Inventory and Assessment of the
VSU Campus
VSU College of Agriculture in coordination with
VSU Facilities

Summary:
VSU COA is seeking to hire three or four VSU students for an 8-week paid summer job/internship. Interns will be responsible for conducting an inventory of VSU’s campus trees, including collection and analysis of data. Students from any major, who enjoy working outdoors, want to learn something new and are self-motivated, are encouraged to apply!

Introduction:
VSU’s main campus contains numerous urban trees, which provide significant benefits to students, faculty, staff, and guests. This includes energy savings for buildings, mitigation of stormwater and associated costs, air quality improvement, and social and aesthetic benefits, among others. Proper planning of the urban tree resource will help maximize these benefits, as well as minimize potential risks such as damage to infrastructure, and costs such as trimming and maintenance.

Planning for the future begins with an assessment of the current resource. We propose to undertake an inventory of the trees on VSU’s main campus, collecting data on the location, species, size, health, and other characteristics of trees. These data will then be entered into i-Tree, a computer software suite from the USDA Forest Service, to estimate the costs and benefits of the existing tree resource.

By the end of this experience, interns should:
1. Understand the value and importance of urban trees.
2. Improve teamwork and communication skills.
3. Be able to identify common tree species.
4. Know how to utilize common forestry instruments and technology, including: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS), logger’s tape and calipers, clinometers and/or hypsometer.
5. Become confident in their own abilities to accurately measure and estimate tree characteristics including growth and health measurements using the instruments above as well as visual interpretation.

**Expectations:**

1. Students will conduct tree measurements on a daily or nearly daily basis.
2. Interns will work approximately 25 hours per week, usually 7:00AM to noon (to avoid the hottest part of the day).
3. Interns will spend significant time outdoors, including moderate activity in the heat.
4. Interns will go through a 1.5 or 2 day training on the importance of urban trees, data to be collected, sampling strategy, tree identification, and the use of forestry instruments and technology.
5. Interns will utilize GIS and GPS on a daily or nearly daily basis.

**To apply:**

Send brief resume and one reference to Dr. Gregory Frey (gfrey@vsu.edu), College of Agriculture, no later than March 31.