

Education and Workforce Development

SOCKS Internship &
Broader Impacts

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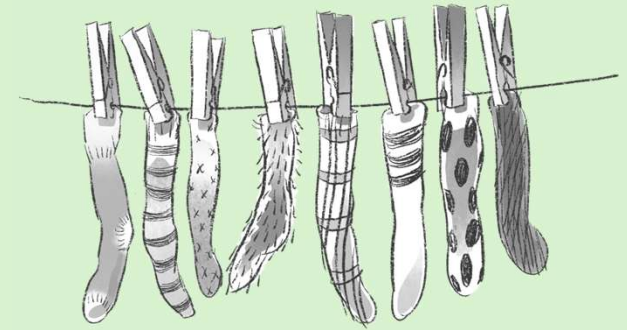


Overview For Today

- VT EPSCoR SOCKS Undergraduate Internship
 - Plans for 2026 Internship
 - Revisions from 2025 Internship feedback
- Partnerships - 2025 Recaps and 2026 plans
 - GIV
 - ECHO
 - AiVermont
 - Montshire Museum of Science
- How you can be involved!



VT EPSCoR SOCKS Internship



- 12 interns arriving on May 25th for the 10-week program
 - In-person symposium on July 23rd + 24th and you are all invited!
- This year's research groups:
 - *Indigenous Narratives and Storytelling in Global Environmental Governance*
Kemi Fuentes-George (4 interns)
 - *Social Impacts of Stories*
Pablo Bose (1 intern)
 - *Mental Health Discourse through Media and Diagnostic Language*
Alice Patania (1 intern)
 - *Local News Ecosystems and Civic Information Access*
Ben Cooley (2 interns)
 - *Understanding and Promoting Human Connection in Illness*
Bob Gramling (1 intern)
 - *Fine-grained Error Analysis in Machine Translation*
Brennan Dell (2 interns)
 - *Estimating the impact of context on word meaning: Towards more fully leveraging LLMs in linguistics*
Julia Zimmerman (1 intern)

VT EPSCoR SOCKS Internship Cont.



- Our Recruitment Process:
 - Posted the internship to Handshake
 - Reached 2600+ school boards and 15 million+ students
 - Sent ~600 emails to college career centers across the United States including:
 - Colleges in Vermont
 - Community Colleges
 - Universities with Computational Social Sciences programs
 - Shared recruitment materials with SOCKS staff, VTSU Career Newsletter, and internship alumni
 - Put up posters at our neighboring Universities
 - 66 complete applications

Apply Now
VT EPSCoR
SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH INTERNSHIP
May 25 - July 31, 2026

Vermont EPSCoR is offering a research internship opportunity to undergraduate students. The selected cohort will join our cutting-edge NSF-funded research on **Harnessing the Data Revolution for Vermont: The Science of Online Corpora, Knowledge, and Stories (SOCKS)**.

SOCKS revolves around stories as an essential part of how people comprehend, explain, predict, and seek to navigate the world.

Students will do full-time, high-impact, hands-on research for 10 weeks related to computational social science. Some topics include:

- Indigenous narratives and storytelling
- Health communication
- Analysis of local news stories and programs
- Social impacts of stories
- Mental health discourse through media
- Linguistics / machine translation

Earn a stipend of \$5,000 over the 10-week period.

Applications due January 4, 2026 at 5pm EST.

QUESTIONS? Email: VTEPSCoR@vermontstate.edu

GO TO: [UVM.EDU/SOCKS/NODE/65](https://uvm.edu/socks/node/65) TO COMPLETE YOUR ONLINE APPLICATION!

Funding provided by NSF OIA 2242829

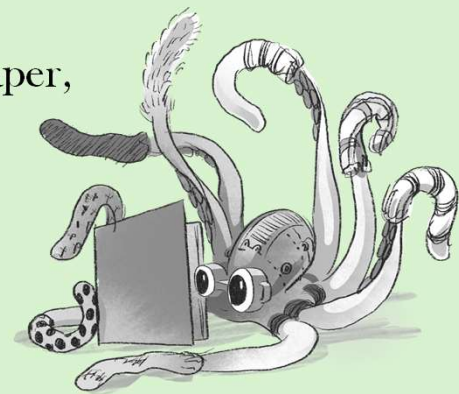
VT EPSCoR SOCKS Internship Cont.

- Feedback from Summer 2025
 - All participants, students, mentors, and grad assistants, completed evaluations over the course of the 2025 summer program.
 - Suggestions
 - Foster the learning community- especially those who are the sole intern working on a project with a professor.
 - Offer a session explicitly linking computer science concepts to their research topics and broader academic interests.
 - Ensure the team members have the required technical knowledge, especially in computer science, needed to carry out research.
 - Opportunity for mentors and mentees to meet prior to summer



VT EPSCoR SOCKS Internship Cont.

- Revisions for Summer 2026
 - Decreased cohort from 14 to 12
 - Mentor - Mentee Matching
 - Interest polling - applicants ranked their project preferences
 - Interviewing
 - Scheduling pre-summer virtual meetings with mentor and their mentees
 - Added project development workshops
 - How to write a research questions, literature review, abstract, research paper, and research presentation



A Brief Overview of The Internship Schedule

- Orientation:
 - Intro to SOCKS Research
 - Qualitative Research Methods
 - Breaking down the research lifecycle
 - GitHub, Overleaf and other applicable programs
 - Lab Notes
 - Scientific writing
 - How to write a research questions, literature review, and abstract
 - CS in The Humanities talk
- Professional Development:
 - How to Apply to Grad School
 - Interviewing Techniques and Resume Building with UVM Career Center
 - SOCKS Research Talks



Other Scheduled Events

- Others:
 - ECHO Tour
 - Team Building and Workforce Education
 - VACC Tour
 - Exposure to our new Large Memory Database
 - Piloting AI Literacy and Skepticism Curriculum
 - Supporting development of other SOCKS educational initiatives
 - Attending IC2S2
 - Professional Development and Networking



Presenters needed!

- How to write a research question/abstract/literature review (5/27 - 5/28)
- Interdisciplinary connections of each research group (5/29)
 - Someone from capacity team, social team, and health team to discuss connections between computer science concepts and social implications in their team's work
- Python coding workshop (first week of June)
- Intro to APIs (6/16)
- Intro to NLP (TBD)
- Research talks (throughout the summer)

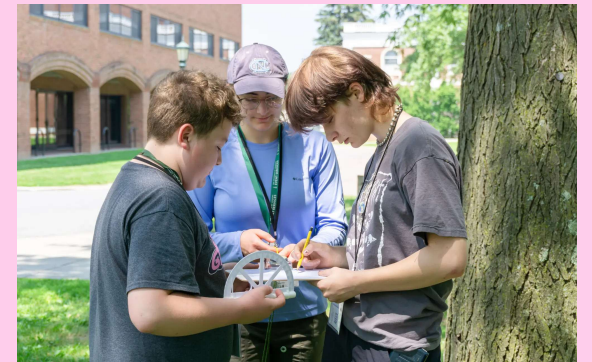
K-12 Educational Partnerships



Governor's Institute of Vermont

- 2025 Mathematical Science Institute (UVM)
 - 43 campers participated
 - Explored applied mathematics through workshops in cryptography, data science, probability, and statistics.
- 2025 Technology and Design Institute (Champlain)
 - 66 campers participated
 - Explored digital illustration, game design, cybersecurity, physical computing, programming, AI, and robotics.
 - Fieldtrips to Beta, Burton Snowboards

Looking for guest lecturers- June 20th - June 28th, 2026 at Champlain College and UVM



ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain

- Teen Leadership Team: E-Team
 - 16 high school students from 7 schools across Chittenden County.
 - Weekly 2-hour trainings in scientific communication, career readiness, and STEM topic trainings.
 - Monthly career awareness field trips to partner sites
 - Interns are paid to work as facilitators at the ECHO Engineer It Program, while simultaneously designing and executing their own museum evaluation studies.
- 7th - 12th grade Outreach
 - Renewable Ride - a 50-minute classroom program
 - Hands on engineering challenge with data visualization and analysis. Students build wind-powered maglev vehicles, collect data on performance and analyze their results.
 - 360 students from Franklin and Chittenden County have participated so far.



Dr. Jonathan Banfill and his team from Champlain College presented to the E-Team on data collection of sonic experiences. Interns analyzed their own sound clips.

aiVermont

- K-12 Artificial Intelligence Learning and Literacy Curriculum
 - First of 5 modules complete as of March 12th 2026:
Foundations of AI Literacy
 - Planned modules:
 - Foundations of AI Literacy
 - Issues and Ethics with AI
 - AI Applications for Teaching and Learning
 - Evaluating AI Use
 - Augmenting Life and Work with AI
 - AI and the Science of Stories – Dr. Juniper Lovato
 - Piloting to begin soon- Asking Vermont Teachers to evaluate effectiveness and relevance.



Marc Natanagara pictured center- Facilitator and K-12 Educator. Co-Directors Chris Thompson and Denise Shekerjian (on left and right)

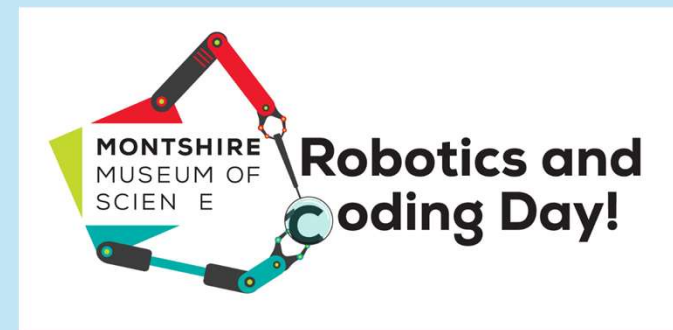


Participants at an aiVermont workshop

Maggie and Renee attended Next Steps for educators workshop –used some Module 1 content

Montshire Museum of Science

- Robotics and Coding experiences for middle school-aged youth
 - Coding Academy- a multi-day summer camp
 - Introduction to Coding - a three-part homeschool series.
 - Block code to race robots, solve mazes and more.
 - 204 contact hours with 16 students aged 11-15
- Robotics and Coding Day - Saturday, April 11th, 2026
10am - 5pm, featuring:
 - Hands-on coding experiences designed by Montshire educators
 - Creative coding inspirations exposure
 - Career pathways discussions



Opportunities for involvement:

ECHO Exploration Field Trip or Career Talk

Program: E Team Internship

Dates: Wednesdays. Mid-September to early June, throughout the school year

GIV Guest Lecture

Dates: June 20th - 28th, 2026

Program: Technology and Design Institute

Location: Champlain College

Program: Mathematical Science Institute

Location: University of Vermont

SOCKS Internship Speakers Needed

- How to write a research question/abstract/literature review (5/27 - 5/28)
- Interdisciplinary connections of each research group (5/29)
- Python coding workshop (first week of June)
- Intro to APIs (6/16)
- Intro to NLP (TBD)
- Research talks (throughout the summer)

Get Involved:

Scan QR Code, Complete short Microsoft Form



Please attend the Undergraduate Research Symposium on July 23rd and 24th!

Thank you!

