In their own words …
Experience – Grow - Make a Difference

Ryan Hettinger
UW-Platteville Student &
PACCE Summer Intern

Interning at Platteville Main Street Program in Platteville, WI
Junior majoring in Sustainable & Renewable Energy Systems (SRES)
Hometown: Madison, WI

“So far, installations have been completed for Momentum Bikes, Los Amigos Restaurant, Bridal Boutique, American Family Insurance, State Farm Insurance & Hidden Quilts.”- Hettinger

How did your internship opportunity happen?
I worked in the Office of Sustainability with Amy Seeboth during the school year looking for ways to modernize our shuttle system and make it more user-friendly. When summer approached, we brainstormed ways to connect with the community and help local businesses save money and install energy efficient lighting using the Focus on Energy project also bridges the technical, financial, and business skills I learned in my courses into an applied project.

How are you spending your days?
I work with the Platteville Main Street Program to help member businesses apply for Focus on Energy grants to cover up to 60% of the cost of lighting retrofits. I spend most of my days on-site taking inventory of a business’s lighting or working with an electrician to schedule an installation. On installation days I also shadow and help the Trade Ally with the installation process and ensure the business owner is satisfied with the end product.

What types of skills are you learning?
I am learning how to apply for grants and navigate the specific and detailed steps required for approval. Communication is key when arranging installation with the business owner and the electrician. Documentation is imperative; my writing has to be clear and concise to avoid ambiguity.

How does your internship complement your academic goals?
After graduation, I plan to work as a project manager or energy manager in a corporate or large-scale setting. This PACCE internship allowed me to explore the challenges and difficulties of implementing new systems within a business. The

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