

Innovation that Delights: Interning at ACES



In the spring semester, I interned with the Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability and primarily worked in two areas: facilitating the LIFT challenge and researching the cycle of food waste

ACES Overview



Goal



Academic Opportunities



Initiatives within UNC



Global Initiatives

The Lift Challenge

Who?

- University students, both undergrad and graduated

What?

- the goal is feasible solutions to sustainability issues that use blended finance, in line with the UN's SDGs

When?

- The finals are held in early February



Food Waste Research

2 interviews conducted

I interviewed Alex Piasecki, Co-Founder and COO of Seal the Season, and Turner Wyatt, Co-founder and CEO of Upcycled Food, about upcoming trends in agricultural tech

23 companies researched

My final deliverable included 23 different companies who were all contributing to food waste reduction in new, innovating ways

13 weekly meetings

Every week, I met with 3 other interns, Jeff, and Tracy, and we updated each other on our progress and generated new ideas to test out

5 areas of focus

I divided the food cycle into Agricultural Production, Manufacturing/Processing, Distribution, Retail/Distribution, and Consumption in my research

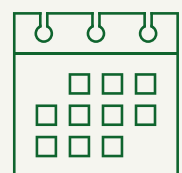
Internship Takeaways

Organize impactful events



Utilize your network

Synthesize findings into digestible deliverables



Give structure to long-term projects