

# LEAP Action Plan INNOVATION CORPS (iCorps)



<p><b>LEAP Workshop Year:</b> 2013  <b>Action dates:</b> 2013 to Summer 2015</p>	<p><b>For more information, contact:</b>  Denise Ehlen, Innovation Hub iMentor  <a href="mailto:ehlend@uww.edu">ehlend@uww.edu</a>, 262.472.1956  Seth Meisel, Innovation Hub iMentor  <a href="mailto:meisels@uww.edu">meisels@uww.edu</a>, 262.472.1013</p>
<p><b>General Goal:</b>  (Better) Integrate LEAP into the University's outreach programs (focusing first on the Innovation Hub or non-student incubator).</p>	
<p><b>Planned Actions:</b>  The Innovation Hub LEAP team focuses on integrative learning for student members of the iCorps (currently funded by a 2014-2015 Great Lakes Career Ready Internship Grant). See "Notes" section for additional information regarding the grant-funded program and sponsor.</p> <p>The mission of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Innovation Corps (iCorps) is to provide undergraduate students with an opportunity to integrate academic theories and principles with applied experience by immersing participants in analysis, discovery, problem-solving, and communication, to deepen understanding and reinforce classroom learning.</p> <p>Students hired for iCorps internships this year will participate as a cohort in a series of workshops each semester to introduce them to LEAP principals, contextualize their learning and will be required to submit weekly reflections addressing questions such as</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"> How has your mentor/supervisor contributed to your professional development?  In what ways has your coursework prepared you for your internship?  What were your two or three key experiences?  What does "innovation" mean to you? What did you learn about innovation from the iCorps experience?  What new skills did you learn in your internship? How will you use these skills in your undergraduate studies or future employment?  How has the internship impacted your personal, career and/or academic goals? How can you share what you learned during the internship with others? </p> <p>Student learning outcomes integrated learning as demonstrated in these reflections will be assessed with a modified version of the LEAP Integrative Learning VALUE rubric. In addition, the LEAP team will compare students' initial resume and the revised resume they submit at the end of their internship to measure student's ability to articulate their applied learning as a result of their internship experience.</p> <p>The iCorps project complements student workshop with a LEAP orientation for internship supervisors who will be invited to participate in the evaluation of student reflections and resumes.</p>	
<p><b>Deliverables, Completed Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 61 iCorps placements in 2014-2015</li> <li>• Report regarding best practices and lessons learned from the iCorps initiative</li> </ul>	

**Notes:**

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation to help students with financial need attain the educational and employability benefits of paid internships. UW-Whitewater, through the Innovation Corps (iCorps) program, will collaborate with local businesses and nonprofit institutions to provide valuable paid internship opportunities for students who cannot afford to take unpaid positions and would otherwise miss the opportunity to earn meaningful experience directly related to their fields of study.

The iCorps proposes to create over 60 new paid internship opportunities for campus juniors and seniors with demonstrated financial need. The internships also present an opportunity for local businesses and entrepreneurs associated with the Whitewater University Technology Park Innovation Center. The Great Lakes grant will help these nascent organizations build the capacity to start and maintain effective internship programs.

The Great Lakes grant and iCorps program will help qualified students:

- Enter the workforce with more competitive resumes;
- Apply classroom learning to real world challenges;
- Make valuable connections for post-graduation employment opportunities;
- Get in “on the ground floor” of exciting, entrepreneurial companies; and
- Earn paychecks while gaining valuable experience.

Knowing that education has the power to change lives for the better, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates helps millions of students pay for college and repay their student loans. Through Community Investments, Great Lakes leads initiatives and funds programs that help students from traditionally underserved backgrounds start and complete a two- or four-year degree or other credential. For additional information, visit **[community.mygreatlakes.org](http://community.mygreatlakes.org)**.

The following eligibility requirements have been established by the Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation. Students must meet ALL requirements to be eligible for iCorps internship opportunities.

- The internship must be directly related to students’ majors and provide meaningful major-related work experience.
- Interns must possess junior or senior status.
- Students must demonstrate financial need equal to or greater than the internship award by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- Students must maintain Title IV Satisfactory Academic Progress.
- Interns must be domestic students.