



ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

From Intern to Employee: Ethan Allgood Uses Data to Deliver for Champaign County



From early childhood education to energy assistance, the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) provides services that improve the quality of life for their residents. It's only natural that CCRPC would join forces with Ameren Illinois — a company that's been powering quality of life across Illinois for more than a century.

The utility's award-winning Energy Efficiency Internship Program helps to prepare promising young people for careers in energy efficiency. Working with partner organizations like CCRPC, the Ameren Illinois Market Development Initiative's Internship Program provides hands-on job training and energy efficiency education for an elite group of interns every summer.

"Through the Internship Program, we were able to bring on a talented software development intern, Ethan Allgood," says Matthew Yoder, Data and Technology Manager at CCRPC. "The Internship Program gave Ethan the opportunity to develop his technical skills and apply them to a real-world problem. It also introduced him to the world of energy efficiency, which is a growing part of our work at CCRPC."

During his summer 2020 internship, Ethan developed an interactive demographics map that is helping the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program reach those who would benefit most from energy savings.

"Knowing that my work is helping people in need gives me a larger sense of purpose."

— Ethan Allgood

"I cut my teeth in software development with this project — it was a fantastic capstone to my education," says Allgood. "The internship gave me a chance to demonstrate my potential to my current employer."

His impact as an intern paved the way for Ethan to land a permanent job with CCRPC after the Internship Program concluded. Today, as a Software Developer, he creates data-based solutions that improve the lives of residents in Champaign County and beyond.

Ethan is happy to be able to put his degree to good use. "The internship gave me a context for the people I'm serving. Knowing that my work is helping people in need gives me a larger sense of purpose."

HIGHLIGHTS:

- » The Energy Efficiency Internship Program prepares the next generation of workers for careers in energy efficiency.
- » Since 2018, Ameren Illinois has funded 42 internships.
- » 15-20 promising students gain hands-on education and opportunities every summer.



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