

Community Engaged Internship Comes to The Bronx

The Community Engaged Internships (CEI) program aims to broaden participation in marine and coastal professions by providing training and mentorship to the next generation of scientists, decision makers, and citizens. The program is designed to connect undergraduate students from underrepresented and Indigenous communities to environmentally-focused projects for 8-10 weeks during the summer. Interns receive on-the-ground learning experience that includes professional development and completion of a project that extends the knowledge of environmental, economic and/or social importance. New York Sea Grant's (NYSG) CEI program contributes to a nationwide initiative of the National Sea Grant College Program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In 2022, one of NYSG's CEI interns, Hewi Palmiotti, participated in field data collection along the Bronx River to help document wetlands that serve as flood barriers, provide habitat, and allow public access to the waterfront. This natural and nature-based features monitoring work included refining the data collection process, partnering with diverse organizations, and sharing information about the research during public events. Presentations were made as part of an Urban Waters Federal Partnership event, an Environmental Justice vessel tour, and Professional Learning Opportunity for Teachers meetings.

NYSG's New York City (NYC)-based Long Island Sound Outreach Coordinator mentored Hewi, a sophomore majoring in Environmental Science and Geographic Information Systems at Binghamton University. Hewi spent 10 weeks working in the field and with various NYC communities. Hewi's capstone project was a Public Access Story Map of coastal resources in Queens and the Bronx with information about access to Long Island Sound public lands and public transportation to the coast for boating and fishing.



NYSG's 2022 CEI Intern Hewi Palmiotti, with Natural Areas Conservancy Interns (orange vests) at natural and nature-based monitoring site, Soundview Park, The Bronx. Photo: Lillit Genovesi/NYSG

Long Island Sound Story Map:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7416d6effb4a4286bb61e7e03ec4264d>



Partners:

- Long Island Sound Study • Natural Areas Conservancy
- New York City Parks
- New York City Department of Environmental Protection
- SUNY Maritime College
- **Funding:** NOAA North Atlantic Regional Team

NYSG's 2022 CEI Intern Hewi Palmiotti shows estuary habitat animals to children at the "Boogie Down to the Sound" public event at SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx. Photo: Lillit Genovesi/NYSG

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development in New York.

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.
Contact: New York Sea Grant Extension, 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; www.nyseagrant.org.

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