



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**J. Marion Sims Foundation's 2017 Summer Internship Experience**

The J. Marion Sims Foundation will welcome its second class of summer interns, beginning Monday, May 22, 2017. Nine college students from Chester and Lancaster counties will join the Foundation as fulltime staff for 10-weeks for the duration of the summer. The "Simterns" internship program gives college students the unique opportunity to make important contributions to the community.

"As we continue to build on community assets for current and future generations, the youth of our community are assets we can build on! It is so important to include their thoughts and actions in our goals," said Jodie Plyler, Trustee of the J. Marion Sims Foundation board. "This group of incoming interns are some of the brightest and most impressive youth in our community. I am excited with the level of engagement we have already seen in this new group of students, and can't wait to see what they will accomplish this summer!"

The internship selection process is highly competitive, with both written and interview components, and a full review from a committee of community members. Throughout the summer, intern projects and assignments range from community engagement, social media development, program development, project planning, research, and data analysis. By working in the field of philanthropy and in partnership with local nonprofit organizations, interns will gain meaningful, real life experiences.

"Our talented interns will be working on transformational projects that have the potential to elevate and enhance the health and wellness of Great Falls, Fort Lawn and Lancaster County," said Marvin Starks, Trustee of the J. Marion Sims Foundation board. "Each task will help to elevate our local nonprofits and community as a whole."

The J. Marion Sims Foundation Internship Class of 2017 includes:

**Laney Buckley (Chester, SC)**

A graduate of Rock Hill High School, Laney has just finished her junior year at Winthrop University and will finish her degree in Business Administration in May 2018.

**Zachary Catoe (Lancaster, SC)**

A Lancaster High School graduate, Zachary just completed his sophomore year at the University of South Carolina – Columbia and will complete his degree in Physical Education in May 2019.

**Avery Faile (Lancaster, SC)**

A graduate of Lancaster High School, Avery just completed her sophomore year at the University of South Carolina – Lancaster and will finish her degree in Early Childhood Education in May 2019.

**Tyler Ferguson (Lancaster, SC)**

A Lancaster High School graduate, Tyler has finished his junior year at the University of South Carolina - Columbia and will complete his degree in English in December 2018.

**Catherine Langley (Lancaster, SC)**

A Buford High School graduate, Catherine just completed her first year at Winthrop University. She will complete her degree in Early Childhood Education in May 2020.

**Michaella Oswald (Lancaster, SC)**

A Lancaster High School graduate, Michaella has finished her junior year at the University of South Carolina - Upstate and will complete her degree in Nursing in May 2018.

**Effie Spears (Lancaster, SC)**

A Lancaster High School graduate, Effie just completed her junior year at the University of South Carolina- Columbia. She will complete her degree in Exercise Science in December 2017.

**Ryleigh Waiters (Lancaster, SC)**

A Lancaster High School graduate, Ryleigh just completed her second year at the University of South Carolina - Columbia and will complete her degree in Exercise Science in May 2019.

**Diondrae Wright-Linton (Lancaster, SC)**

A Lancaster High School graduate, Drae just completed his sophomore year at Furman University and will finish his degree in Health Science in May 2019.

“We’re thrilled to offer college students—particularly those who live in Lancaster and Chester counties— a relevant and meaningful work experience during summer break,” said Susan DeVenny, President & CEO of J. Marion Sims Foundation. “Our Foundation is here to strengthen the health and vibrancy of our community and we know that part of that solution is in our young people.”

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*The J. Marion Sims Foundation is entering its third decade of service to the community, with a focus on transforming the health and wellness of Lancaster, Fort Lawn, and Great Falls, SC. For information about the Foundation, please visit [www.jmsims.org](http://www.jmsims.org) or contact the Foundation at (803) 286-8772.*