

The Wayne County Fair Apprenticeship was a totally unique experience for me. You really get to help run the fair, meet new people who want to help you, and connect with the local community. It made me go out of my comfort zone to shake hands, speak up and speak out, and be a part of the Wayne County Fair in a significant way. You'd never realize how much planning and communication is required well in advance of opening day until you're in the meetings and have assignments and deadlines. This apprenticeship was so valuable because it puts you in charge of events like the Goat Milking Contest and you have to reach out to the community. And it's not like a homework assignment - the Fair is going to happen no matter what, and you're pushed to follow through and make the best out of the challenges you're faced with.

It is real and there are unexpected challenges, but you're surrounded by experienced people who want to see you succeed. I don't think I have space to write all that I learned or all the valuable connections I made or how much fun I had. The apprenticeship gives you the opportunity to be a real leader and be a part of something greater than yourself. I've not been a part of anything as positively unique and rewarding as the Wayne County Fair Apprenticeship. I would do it all over again if I could, and I encourage anyone who's even remotely interested to apply because it is so much more than you think.

-Tristan Gellatly