

Center Internships and Space Grant

The Challenges

- SG's recognized as a major funding source for NASA internships.
- SG's flooded with multiple funding requests from multiple Centers.
- Some Centers ask for special considerations even while the application system is still open.
- The current process (no guidelines) favors Centers which make their requests first.

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A Better Way

- During a two-week period (March 3-14), Centers each send a list of the students they want from each state, and the projects (opportunities) on which they will be assigned.
- SG's will make no commitments to any Centers to fund particular students until the SG's see all the requests from all the Centers. (SG's see the total picture.)
- For one week (March 17-21), the SG's review the Center request lists and rank the students they are willing to support, using their own criteria.

A Better Way (continued)

- SG's compare the Center lists to determine which students are requested by multiple Centers.
- SG's call those students and ask 1) Are you available? and 2) Which project/Center do you prefer?
- SG's finalize their lists and determine how many and which students they are willing to fund.
- SG's send their final lists to all ten Centers within a certain week (by March 21).
- As lists are received by Centers, the Centers can begin making offers through OSSI. (from March 17 on)

Results

- This process eliminates the multiple calls and emails from Centers to SG's seeking stipend support for particular applicants.
- Each SG has the entire picture of all ten Centers' requests for students from its state.
- Each SG decides which students they are willing to support. No discussions with the Centers are necessary.
- Everyone treated the same – fairly.