

# Externship 2021



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2021 extern at Buchanan County  
Conservation

## Part I: Overview of Workplace

The Buchanan County Conservation Board offices are located at Fontana Park Interpretive Nature Center. Buchanan County Conservation Board provides parks, prairies, woodlands, wetlands, and river accesses for both people and wildlife. The Conservation Board manages 41 properties, and features an award-winning Environmental Education Program.

## Part II: Workplace Focus

The Buchanan County Conservation Board's mission is to "improve quality of life through programs of conservation and education."

## Part III: Introduce the Problem

The project derived from my externship experience is to develop a workshop for area teachers that will encourage teachers to incorporate more outdoor activities into their curriculum.

The public product will be a workshop based upon the BEETLES (Better Environmental Education Training, Learning, and Expertise Sharing), which is a program of student activities designed to provide opportunities for the three-dimensional learning called for in the NGSS.

The workshop will focus on activities for Grades 5-8, but all activities are adaptable for younger and older students.

## Part IV: Standards, Driving and Essential Questions

Students engage in scientific practices (Science and Engineering Practices) to learn important science concepts (Disciplinary Core Ideas) and make connections to the big ideas in science (Crosscutting Concepts).

In short, BEETLES student activities give students the opportunity to use the tools of science to explore and investigate rich phenomena, while trying to figure out how the natural world works.

## Part V: Extern Host Role

The role of my extern hosts in this learning unit is to provide guiding expertise in developing activities and criteria for the workshop as well as a place to hold the workshop. Sondra Cabell and Michael Maas are my extern hosts who are naturalists at the Buchanan County Conservation Nature Center (Fontana Park) located near Hazelton, Iowa.

## Part VI: Student Learning

The naturalists level of voice and choice will be evident from the point that they are providing a location for the workshop to be held and are advertising the workshop in the Buchanan County Conservation newsletter and to local teachers. There are numerous opportunities for revision and reflection along the way by email conversation with the naturalists and when the naturalist and I meet in August to finalize plans.