

Swift County

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

2026

*Building the future
workforce in Swift
County through real-
world experiences*



HISTORY OF PROGRAM



The Swift County Summer Internship Program was developed to help local students explore and connect with the wide range of career opportunities available right in their own backyard. The idea was introduced by County Commissioner Larry Mahoney, who learned about similar efforts through the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council (SWMNPIC). Recognizing its potential, Mahoney brought the concept to the Enhancing the Organization Committee, where it received strong support.

With momentum building, Swift County's Economic Development Authority staff worked closely with county commissioners to secure funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These funds enabled the county to launch the program in partnership with SWMNPIC, providing college students with paid summer internships at local businesses. Interns can earn up to \$17 per hour and work up to 29 hours per week, gaining hands-on experience in their fields of interest.

The program matches students with employers that align with their career goals, offering a realistic look at life after graduation while building valuable professional skills. At the same time, the experience helps strengthen students' ties to the community, showcasing Swift County as a place where they can live, work, and thrive after college.

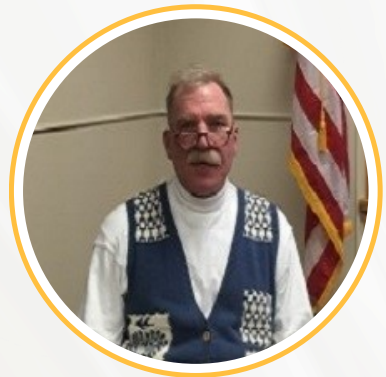
Swift County is proud to invest in its future workforce. The program has received enthusiastic support from students, employers, and community leaders alike, and the county is committed to continuing and growing this successful initiative in the years to come.



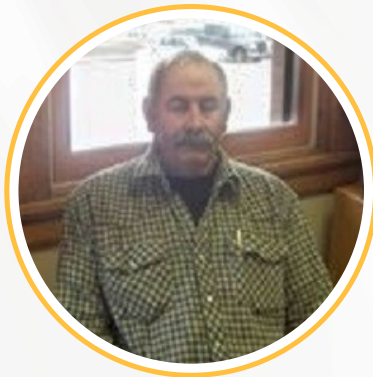
SWIFT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Gary Hendrickx
District 1



Edward Pederson
District 2



Pete Peterson
District 3



Larry Mahoney
District 4



Eric Rudningen
District 5



THE INTERNS

Anika

CentraCare - Benson

Paige

City of Appleton

Avery

*Swift County Developmental
Achievement Center*



SWIFT COUNTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



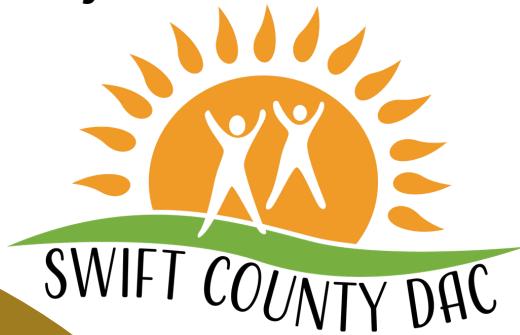
AVERY

Host Site: Swift County Developmental Achievement Center

Position: Assistant Enrichment Coordinator Intern

College: University of Minnesota Morris

Program of Study: Human Services



Avery spent the summer supporting adults with disabilities while gaining valuable experience in the human services field.

She completed specialized training, learned person-centered support practices, and built meaningful relationships with the individuals served by the DAC. Avery also coordinated engaging educational activities, developed learning materials, and helped plan daily enrichment opportunities tailored to participants' interests and abilities.

Her compassion, creativity, and willingness to learn quickly made her a valued member of the team, leading to an invitation to return as a part-time Direct Support Professional during her winter break.

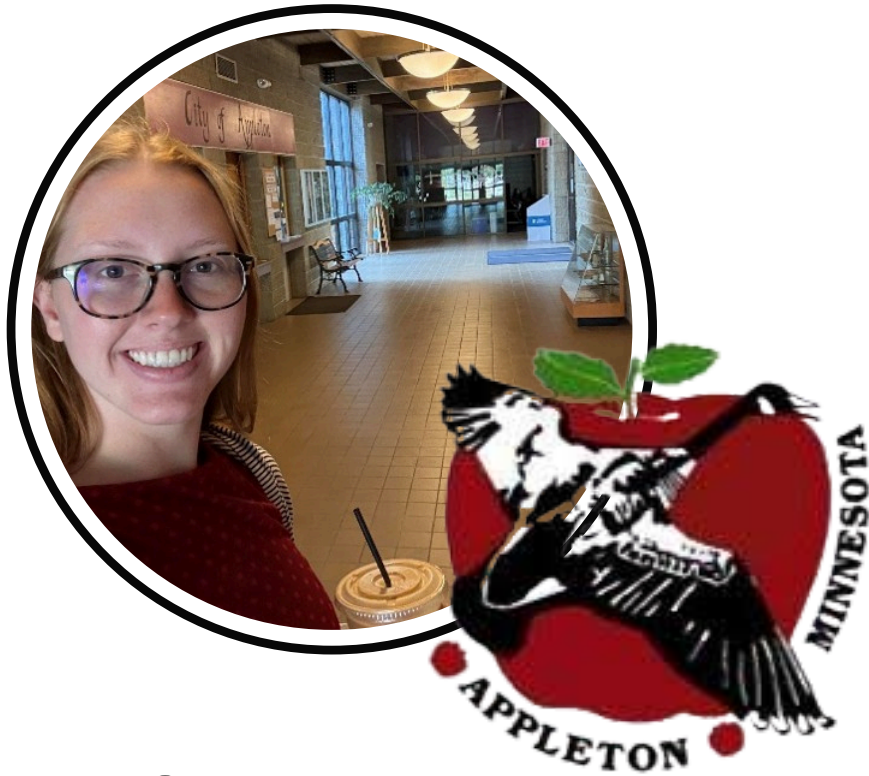
"This internship has taught me so much about connection, patience, and the importance of making everyone feel valued."

– Avery

"Avery has exceeded our expectations... We look forward to her coming back during her winter break as a part-time Direct Support Professional."

– Swift County Developmental Achievement Center

SWIFT COUNTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



PAIGE

Host Site: City of Appleton

Position: City Administrator Assistant Intern

College: South Dakota State University

Program of Study: Community and Regional Planning, Geography, Geographic Information Systems, and Landscape Architecture. Minor in Sustainability and Geospatial Intelligence

Paige applied her classroom knowledge to real community projects while working alongside the City of Appleton.

During her internship, she assisted with code enforcement, bike trail planning, mapping future hospital routes, designing landscaping for the ambulance garage, and organizing a city-wide cleanup. Her work contributed to projects that will benefit the community for years to come while giving her valuable experience in municipal government and city planning.

The internship allowed Paige to better understand the many responsibilities involved in local government and reinforced her passion for community development.

"Paige's interests and skill set were a perfect fit for the internship... She participated in projects that were important but not things I had time for. Thanks for providing the internship."

– John Olinger, City Administrator

"This internship has been a wonderful experience that will help me in my future career."

– Paige

SWIFT COUNTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



ANIKA

Host Site: CentraCare - Benson

Position: Medical Lab Intern

College: University of Minnesota
Duluth

Program of Study: Cell and Molecular
Biology with a Minor in Chemistry



Anika gained hands-on experience in a clinical laboratory, building competency in phlebotomy and waived laboratory testing while learning the vital role laboratory professionals play in patient care.

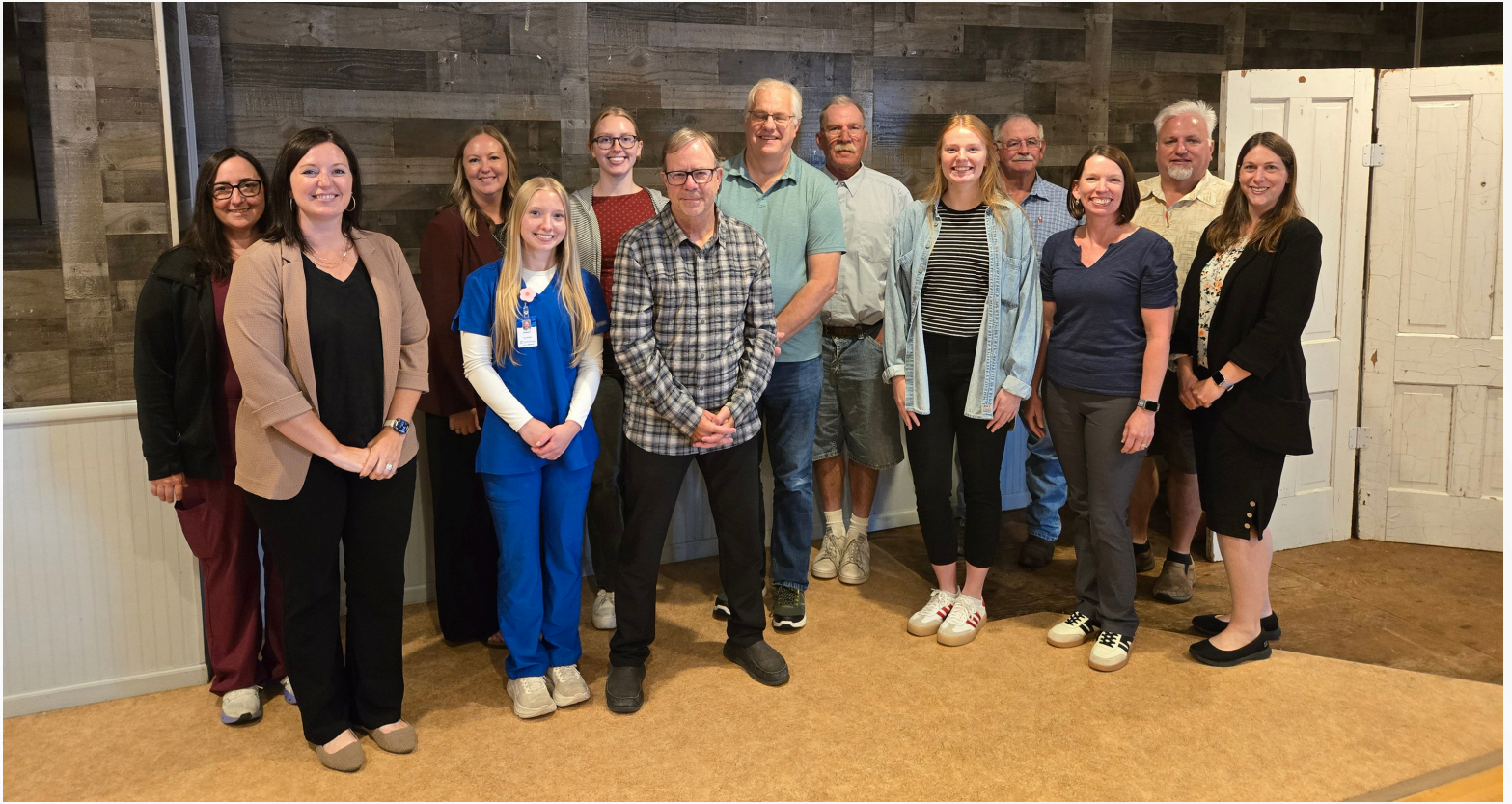
Throughout the internship, she participated in the Interactive Youth Medical Experience during Kid Day Week, helping introduce young students to laboratory science and healthcare careers. She also observed daily safety huddles, emergency medicine operations, and pain clinic procedures, giving her a well-rounded understanding of how healthcare teams collaborate to deliver quality patient care in a rural setting.

The experience strengthened her technical skills, professional communication, and understanding of laboratory quality and safety practices while preparing her for future educational and career opportunities.

"I have enjoyed serving as an internship supervisor and supporting Anika as she gains hands-on experience in a clinical laboratory environment."

– Kelly Carlson, Benson Laboratory Supervisor

APPRECIATION LUNCH



On August 8, 2026, interns, host site representatives, Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council staff, and Swift County Commissioners gathered to celebrate the conclusion of another successful summer of the Swift County Summer Internship Program. It was a meaningful opportunity to reflect on a summer of growth, connection, and career exploration.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the celebration, and best of luck to our interns as they return to their universities for the upcoming academic year!

Swift
COUNTY MN