

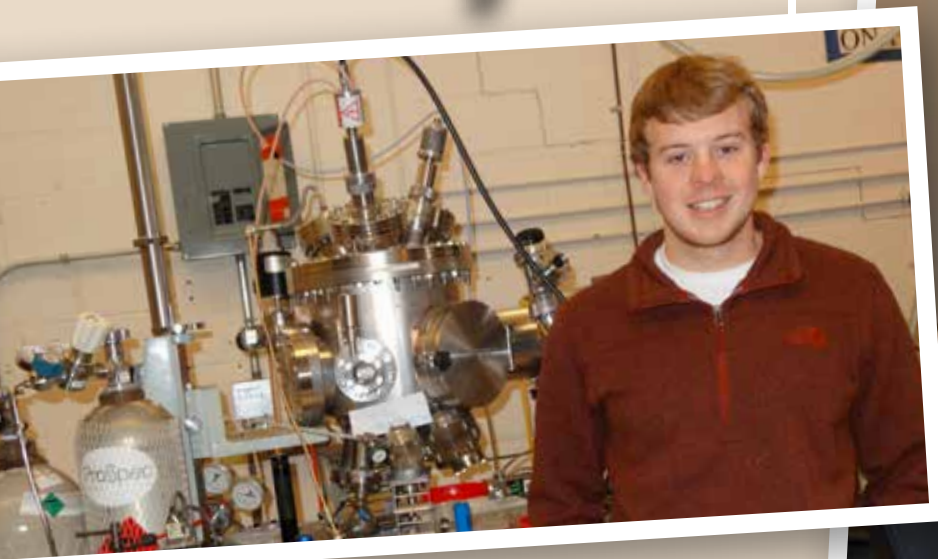
Interns Conclude a Summer Full of Research



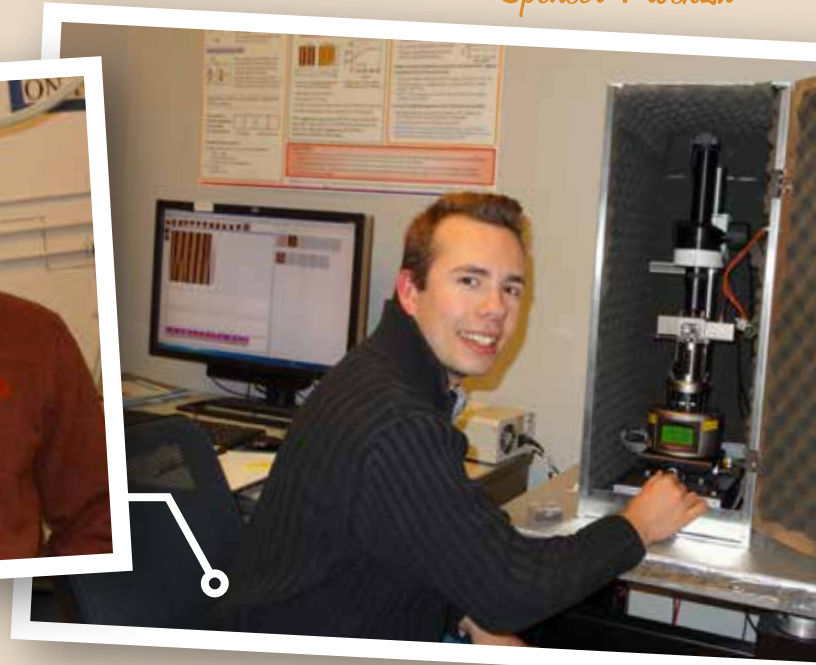
Dear NPPD ...

This past summer, four young scholars participated in the Darrell J. Nelson Summer Intern Program in Energy Sciences Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The summer program is supported by the Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences Research, a more than 10-year collaboration between NPPD and UNL. At the end of the summer, each of the four wrote thank you letters to NPPD for the opportunity the District had provided them.

Spencer Prockish



Aaron Ediger



As might be expected, the letters were well written and reflective, touching upon how much NPPD and the summer internship meant to the students and their future interests. The four undergraduates were **Aaron Ediger**, majoring in electrical engineering; **Rebecca Kiat**, majoring in biological sciences; **Vojislav Medic**, majoring in electrical engineering; and **Spencer Prockish**, majoring in physics.

As Prockish said in his letter: “The Darrell J. Nelson internship has been a wonderful opportunity for me to do valuable scientific research.”

Medic: “Besides the professional experience I have gained this summer, this opportunity meant a great deal to me from a personal standpoint, helping me grow as a person.”

Kiat: “It is great to know that I was able to contribute towards ... a project, which I know is important and something that all of us will be able to benefit from. Thank you for having given me this wonderful opportunity!”

Ediger: “I thank the NCESR and NPPD greatly for providing this opportunity. Without it I would not have been able to work in a research lab this summer.”

The following year, with strong support from NPPD’s Board of Directors, the NCESR was created, in part, through financial support from NPPD and its customers.

The summer internship is aligned with the Center’s overall research mission. As NPPD’s Director of Research **Alan Dostal** commented: “I think the summer internship is a great education program that complements the research efforts of the Energy Center. Prior to the start of each summer internship, the Energy Center holds a meeting where we get to learn more about the aspirations of the students and share with them information about NPPD, public power in Nebraska and the work of the Energy Center.”

Rebecca Kiat



Aaron Ediger is presented a certificate by **Alan Dostal**, UNL faculty advisor Natale Ianno (left) and Jerry Doyle, program manager for NCESR.

Nelson, for whom the internship is named, was a member of the Custer County Public Power District Board of Directors and the NPPD Board of Directors for a combined 41 years.

A proponent of life-long learning, he often contended that the electric utility industry could only

truly move forward if it stepped ahead hand-in-hand with innovation, a core component of which is basic research.

Believing in this vision, in 2005 Nelson proposed a partnership between NPPD and UNL “for the purpose of engaging in energy sciences research.”

“I always enjoy telling incoming students about the history of the Center, particularly about the vision of the late Director Nelson, who helped to get it established.” - Alan Dostal

Dostal continued: “It is apparent to me that his story is quite compelling to a number of the students.

“I know that in follow-up conversations with them, their summer intern experience has a significant impact on their career interests and direction,” he added.

“The highly productive partnership between NPPD and UNL is recognized as a model for interdisciplinary, multi-institutional collaboration that is having a significant impact on and off campus,” said Jerry Doyle, program manager for NCESR.

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Darrell Nelson