

## KLICKITAT PUD

# Summer Interns Learn at KPUD

By Kaitlynn Spino

The Klickitat PUD summer internship program encompasses several different internships.

Office clerk interns help most departments. Students gain valuable skills while performing a variety of tasks and work on projects. Common projects are writing Ruralite articles, calling water-wastewater customers with specific data, and helping create and distribute planned power outage letters to customers.

Warehouse interns help clean and wash vehicles used at the PUD and help organize materials crews use out of the warehouse.

The internship within the IT department was new this year while the internship with the line and tree crews were resurrected after being idle for several years.

The engineering internship is administered through Energy Northwest. The Public Power Internship Program is in partnership with several Pacific Northwest utilities. These interns get hands-on experience with real-world applications of what they are learning in college.

As someone who has been a part of the KPUD

summer student internship for multiple summers, this program has evolved over the years. Last summer, the schedule was built around weekly meetings and focused on a variety of business etiquette and real-world tips and tricks regarding the workforce.

This summer, the focus was on getting out of the office and exploring more of what KPUD does in the field. There were field trips to the Renewable Natural Gas Plant in Roosevelt, tours of water-wastewater treatment plants and exploration of substations with Meter Shop Superintendent Jim Brokaw.

We still have meetings, but they are mostly focused on current projects.

Klickitat PUD hopes to educate students during the summer on how a utility runs and show the variety of career opportunities available through the utility.

Giving students firsthand experience of the KPUD work environment allows them to see if they want to work here in the future.

*Learn about the rest of the KPUD summer interns on page 28.*



### Kaitlynn Spino

Kaitlynn Spino rotated among the various departments at KPUD this summer as an office clerk. This was her second summer as a KPUD office clerk.

Kaitlynn grew up in Klickitat and graduated from Klickitat High School in 2020. She is going into her junior year at the University of Oregon in Eugene, where she is working toward a Bachelor of Science in marine biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Native American and Indigenous studies.

In addition to working full-time at the utility, Kaitlynn was selected for an internship with Elakha Alliance, an organization working toward the reintroduction of sea otters to the Oregon Coast. Through this internship, Kaitlynn helped create a traveling cultural display that will travel up and down the Oregon Coast demonstrating the cultural significance of sea otters to the Indigenous coastal people of Oregon.

Kaitlynn heard about the KPUD internship by word-of-mouth last summer and made connections within the different departments. She was thankful when given the opportunity to come back for a second summer. This year, she learned more about how the different departments at the PUD work together and help each other. She says she learned valuable communication skills, especially the importance of being level-headed in stressful situations.

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