



**M** | LSA  
VICTORS

# Program in the Environment

## THE POWER

Established in 2002, the Program in the Environment (PitE) enables students to draw from multiple disciplines to develop creative new approaches to some of our most pressing environmental and natural resource challenges. PitE's mission is to offer an undergraduate experience that combines rigorous, interdisciplinary environmental studies and practical problem solving within an academic community that supports diversity, fosters intellectual risk-taking, and builds relationships.

PitE engages students in projects that examine real-world problems and provide practical leadership immersion experiences, which enable them to integrate and apply their skills to complex environmental and sustainability problems. The ultimate goal of PitE is to develop environmentally informed citizens and leaders who are equipped to address pressing environmental issues in creative and innovative ways. To help address this goal, PitE launched a new minor in Sustainability in 2012 to educate students about how to develop effective, interdisciplinary approaches to historic and emergent sustainability problems.

Our largest-ever fundraising campaign is ambitious, visionary, purposeful — worthy of the name "Victors." The \$400 million goal is built upon the cornerstone of the liberal arts: the idea that a powerful, pragmatic education can transform hearts and minds, can solve problems in a changing world, can yield ideas and innovation across every discipline. That's why we are focused on raising money so that the best and brightest minds can have access to the College through robust scholarship support, no matter their financial circumstances. So too are we committed to helping every student acquire not just knowledge in the classroom, but experiences outside the academy including innovative entrepreneurial efforts and internships. We strive to support our faculty on the frontlines of research, and steward our planet, our community, our campus. To do all this, and so much more, the College needs you — because the world needs Victors.

## THE OPPORTUNITIES

Students are trained to help bridge the gap that too often exists between theory and practice, natural science and social science, science and art, and researchers and CEOs. To that end, we coordinate an annual speaker series that brings scientists, writers, policy-makers, and academics to campus for public lectures and informal meetings with students. To better hone problem-solving skills, PitE students are required to obtain real-world experience and career preparation through internships or research at a residential field station or by participating in a study abroad program. The Program recruits faculty associates from seven LSA departments and six colleges and schools across campus to teach courses and advise students. Consequently, graduates are prepared to pursue careers in the environment, urban planning, agriculture, business, government, non-profits, or journalism and are well qualified for continuing studies in public health, ecology, medicine, law, and other fields.

## THE IMPACT

To continue PitE's record of success and enhance its ability to offer experiential learning opportunities, we must expand our offerings that provide real-world experiences for students to develop their knowledge and put into practice what they have learned in the classroom. Field excursions, research opportunities, and service learning experiences all offer our students the chance to develop their knowledge and test their scholarship by allowing them to apply what they have learned to different situations. Workshop support is also critical for students as it gives them hands-on learning experience in marketing, citizenship, and responsible advocacy.

## PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES

### **\$50,000 to \$100,000 annually**

As students search to understand how ecosystems work and how humans interact with these systems, they travel to field stations on all seven continents, over half of the states in the Union, many Canadian provinces, and to several South American locales. Programs approved for PitE's practical experience requirement develop student knowledge through off-campus immersions in hands-on work and research. Through these experiences, students develop key skills and competencies for effective interdisciplinary problem solving. Your support of field experiences expands merit-based and need-based scholarships to help defray the costs of studying and/or working off-campus.

## ADVOCACY AND PROPOSAL WRITING WORKSHOPS

### **\$25,000 annually**

Environmental and sustainability problems have their origins, as well as their solutions, in complex interactions among equal partners in natural sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities. Arts and humanities have a long history of fermenting cultural change by humanizing key elements underlying the most pressing questions faced by society. With the broad blending of these areas through a PitE degree, students can bring unique value to future careers. Your contribution could help PitE create various traditional and non-traditional hands-on "how it is done" workshops for undergraduate students to develop practical tools for marketing, citizenship, and responsible advocacy.

## PRACTITIONER IN RESIDENCE

### **\$25,000 annually**

To train future leaders, PitE seeks opportunities for students to experience deep interactions with leading national and international environmental and sustainability practitioners from business, government, education, and other relevant areas. We envision a prestigious residency in which the visiting expert would spend at least two weeks teaching a mini-course, lecturing in the University community and local environmental community, meeting informally with our students and faculty, and generally bringing their challenges, ideas, and imagination into our community of scholars. Your support will provide room, board, travel expenses, and an honorarium.



## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE— COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

**\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually**

PitE prepares tomorrow's leaders to make an impact on an increasingly diverse range of stakeholders in our human-dominated biosphere. Community-based service learning opportunities allow students to create and implement plans for improved environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. Your support of citizen action provides resources for students to travel, organize, and construct their vision to be active leaders and participants in the community.

## UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually**

Students hone their practical skills in real-world situations by participating in internships across the United States and in countries around the world. For liberal arts students, this experience is critical. With these opportunities, our students apply their skills in practical ways and gain experience and exposure that lead to future career possibilities. PitE internship students work with an internship sponsor and faculty mentor to define expectations and evaluate the experience. These internships prepare students to tackle complex environmental and sustainability problems, gather information from many sources, and communicate solutions to experts and non-experts alike.

Your gift to the College internship program will help support PitE students with funding and opportunities for summer and academic year internships. We seek gifts that will provide students with support ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to help cover travel and living expenses, as well as stipends for students in unpaid summer internships who, without such support, would not be able to participate because of financial barriers. PitE students have held internships in many for-profit and non-profit organizations focused on responsible environmental stewardship. An endowed gift of \$100,000 will provide funds for two to five students.

## WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

## CONTACT INFO

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