



REDEFINE EDUCATION FOR A NEW GENERATION

Providing Paid Construction Management
Internships for High School Students

VEREGY: SIMPLIFYING AND ACCELERATING YOUR ENERGY TRANSITION



**stronger
together**

Creating Opportunity for Every Learner

➤ Illinois Education and Career
Success Network Conference
2.26.2026, Palos Hills, Illinois

February 26, 2026

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Agenda

- 01 Meet the Panel
- 02 Riverbend/Veregy Internship
- 03 Peoria Public Schools/Veregy Internship
- 04 Oak Park & River Forest/Veregy Internship
- 05 Benefits of Internship
- 06 Questions & Discussion

Section 1:

Meet the Panel

Meet the Panel



Dr. Darryl Hogue
Superintendent
Riverbend School
District 2



Michele James
Senior Account Manager
Veregy

Section 2:

Riverbend/Veregy Partnership & Internship Program



River Bend School District

Fulton, Illinois

A School Where Everybody is Somebody!

Initial Project Goals: Riverbend School District 2



- Address growing student population and need for additional Classroom Space
- Utilize design that is focused on optimal learning environment and reducing long-term Energy and Operational Costs
- Provide Hands-on Learning Opportunities for High School Students



River Bend School District

Fulton, Illinois

A School Where Everybody is Somebody!

Long-Standing Relationship



River Bend Community Unit School District #2

Where Everybody is Somebody

Darryl Hogue, Ed.D., Superintendent
River Bend District Office
1110 3rd Street • Fulton, IL 61252

dhogue@riverbendschools.net
Ph: 815-589-2711 • Fax: 815-589-4630
www.riverbendschools.org

To Whom it may concern,

7-19-22

River Bend CUSD #2 has worked with the Veregy group (formerly CTS) since 2016 on three different projects/phases of building and grounds improvements. Their effort and attention to details has been remarkable and has made the projects go smoothly and finish on time without disrupting the start of the school year. My main contact person has always been Michele James, and she has lead the charge on many occasions to see that the district's interests are served. She and the Veregy team have attended many board meetings and always demonstrate a willingness to go above and beyond to serve the district.

With each project Michele and her team provide guidance as we work through the scope of each job. The performance contracting model allows for pricing and project planning up front so that all the work plan and contract are clear and understood by all. Often the district has removed or changed course on some of the work and Veregy has always been able to adapt and move forward. Veregy has always remained flexible and responsive to the district's needs. After the high quality and experience of the first project, River Bend has continued to partner with Veregy on additional work.

Phase I project included: Remodeling the high science classrooms to assure that each class had a lab space as well as a classroom space. The remodeling has allowed the district to conduct dual credit chemistry classes with labs. Phase I work also included remodeling the middle school library making it a very student friendly media center. Additional heating and cooling work was also added to phase I in both the high school and middle school. Project cost- 1.3 million dollars.

Phase II- Included addressing a storm water drainage issue by creating a better drainage system outside the high school cafeteria. Veregy worked along with the city to tie school storm drains into the city's drainage system. Phase II also included remodeling the high school library and creating a conference space in the library that could hold classes and be used for meetings. New unit ventilators were added to the middle and elementary school. The elementary heating and cooling was converted from electric to gas powered. A middle school STEAM room was also created by remodeling an existing space. Project costs 1.2 million dollars

Phase III- project included: Moving the elementary school office out of the middle of the building to create a secured office entrance at the front of the building. Two science rooms and one art room at the middle school were also remodeled to provide state of the art science and art spaces that invited better student movement and collaboration. Heating and cooling upgrades

site for each project has meant that communication has been excellent and consistent. Post-construction support has also been outstanding. Veregy has supported and stood behind their work years after project completion. I would not hesitate to do another project with Veregy and I highly endorse their work and the process in which they use when working with school districts.

If I can further assist please feel free to contact me,

Darryl Hogue

Darryl Hogue



Riverbend CUSD #2 Phase 1-5

Fulton, IL

Combined Project Cost:
\$7,603,460

Type: Guaranteed
Performance Contract

Combined Guaranteed Annual
Savings:
Energy: \$15,524
Operational: \$875,813

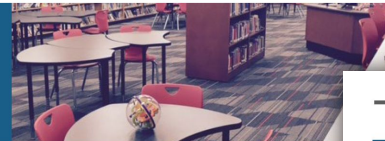
Terms: 10 and 20-Year Terms

Contact: Darryl Hogue
Superintendent
(815) 589-2711

1110 3rd Street
Fulton, IL 61252



Phase 5: Fulton Middle School Conference and Classroom Additions



PROJECT SAVINGS

218,729



Miles driven by an average passenger vehicle

30



TONS of waste recycled instead of landfilled

104



Acres of U.S. forest sequestered in one year

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Fulton High School and Middle School were analyzed by Veregy to improve facilities. Constructed in 1950 and 1961 respectively, the facility had many areas where energy efficiencies would greatly improve staff and student comfort and ability to learn.

Veregy and the District developed the Phase 1 project which included improvements to the mechanical systems, the High School Science Labs, and the Middle School Library. Both areas were transformed into state-of-the-art learning centers. The energy conservation project resulted in over \$7,300 in annual energy savings. Each additional phase added new energy efficient upgrades.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Phase 1: Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs):

- Upgrade controls to DDC System resulting in natural gas and savings
- Fume Hood Upgrade in the Science Labs
- Low Flow Fixtures in the Science Labs
- Mechanical system upgrades to the High School Hot Water Boilers
- Mechanical system upgrades to the Middle School Library RTU
- Lighting Upgrades

Phase 2: New gas fired HVAC units at the Elementary and Middle School Libraries, and LED lighting upgrades at the High School and Middle School Libraries.

Phase 3: Extensive HVAC upgrades at the High School, roofing upgrades at the main office and unit ventilators and HVAC upgrades in classrooms, local offices, Shop and Welding, restrooms, and stairwells.

Phase 4: Middle School conference room and Classroom Addition replacement, plumbing and roofing upgrades, Elementary school and playground lighting upgrades, RTU replacement, mechanical plumbing updates, and restroom restoration.

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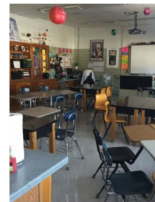


Riverbend CUSD 2 Phase 1-5

Fulton, IL



Veregy renovated the Science Lab with state-of-the-art fixtures.



< Science Lab before the renovation.

Science Lab with a new layout, new fume hoods, and new low flow fixtures. >



< The Library before the renovation.

Updates to the library included new HVAC, ceiling, floor, and LED lighting. >

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Real-World Learning

New Career Path Opportunities

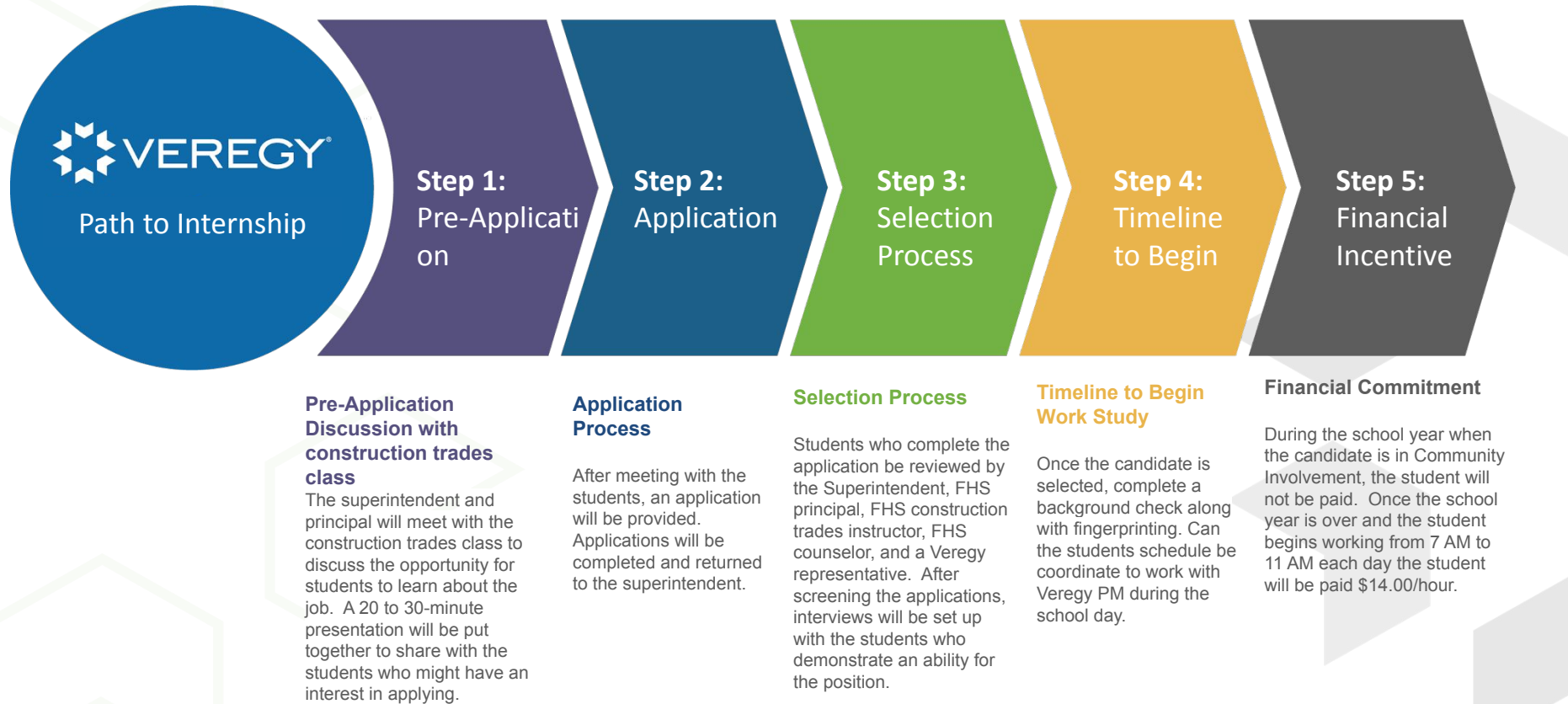
Pathways to a Brighter Future



Provide Students With Real-World Work Experience

- Provide Hands-on Learning Opportunities for High School Students.
- Increase the number of career paths students will discover from construction trades, to engineering, project management, and other leadership roles.
- Introduction sustainability, decarbonization, and energy efficiency.
- The traditional college to office job career path does not work for everyone. This program opens up opportunities for success to those who aren't interested in an office job.
- Teach students strong communication skills required in workforce and life.
- Students learn real-time problem solving skills.

A Student's Path to An Internship



Internship Responsibilities



Perform, *under close supervision*, routine aspects of Construction Management



Collect and prepare data for evaluation



Assist in the ONSITE coordination of projects from beginning to end



Provide support to staff members as needed

Required Skills, Knowledge, And Abilities of Participants:

- Strong desire to consider a career in Construction Management.
- Solid analytical, conceptual, and problem-solving skills.
- Resourceful and self-motivated.
- Solid organizational skills with a focus on details.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to work and thrive in a team environment.

Letter of Interest Questionnaire



Workforce Development Internship Program

River Bend/ Veregy Internship Program: Letter of Interest and questionnaire

River Bend and Veregy are excited to offer an internship program designed for high school students within our workforce development plan that aims to provide hands-on experience and mentorship opportunities. Selected candidates will collaborate with Veregy's experienced project managers on a cutting-edge project scheduled for completion in 2024. This program fosters a dynamic learning environment where students gain practical skills, industry insights, and real-world experience. Our goal is to cultivate the next generation of talented professionals while contributing to their educational journey by immersing them in the intricacies of sustainable energy solutions. Through this initiative, we aim to empower young minds to innovate and make a meaningful impact in the evolving landscape of energy efficiency, construction management, and environmental sustainability.

Along with the letter of interest, please complete the River Bend Employment Application and turn in with the letter of interest/questionnaire to Dr. Darryl Hogue, Supt. River Bend.

On a separate document write a letter of interest explaining why you would like to complete this internship with River Bend and Veregy and why you would be a good candidate for the opportunity.

Also on a separate piece of paper please answer the following questions.

1. How will this internship help you prepare for your future?
2. Describe a situation where you worked with other people to accomplish a goal. What did you learn about yourself and those you were working with?
3. What is your experience with hands-on-work? Describe any construction type jobs you have held.

Internship Schedule



During the School Year

- The candidate will work with the Veregy project manager during the school day every day or every other day based on the District's Community Involvement scheduling.



Over Summer Break

- After the school year is completed, the candidate will work from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. with the project manager each day during the months of June and July.

Sample of Project Management

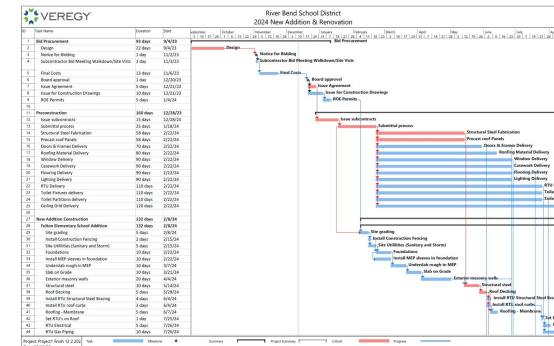


Sample Project Implementation

Feb. 8, 2024 – Aug. 2, 2024

(Board Presentation by Students)

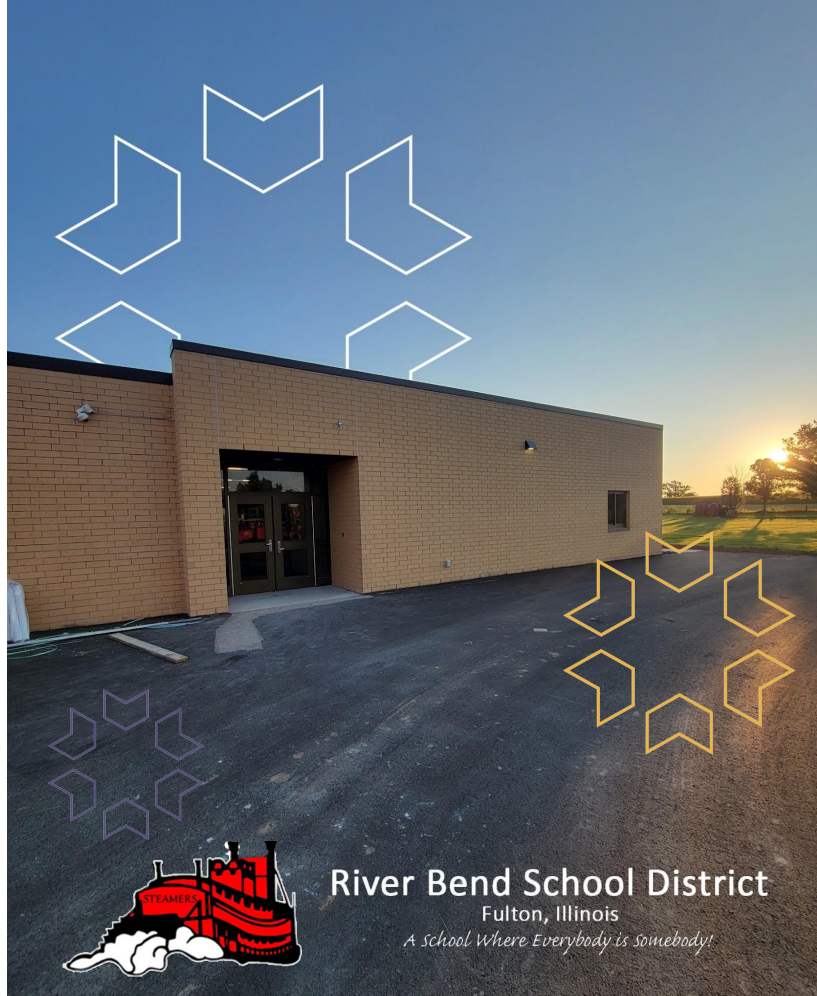
- Foundation poured last week.
- Plumbing underground began Wednesday the 20th and should wrap by the end of the week.
- Windows and Doors in production.
- RTU's ordered, and delivery expected early to mid-July. We will keep this on our radar weekly.
- Main panels and the new fire panel in production.
- Concrete slab Tentative to start March 27th.
- Masonry Scheduled to Begin April 4th.



River Bend Results

River Bend Student/Project Outcomes

- Opportunity to sharpen communication skills and improve problem solving in business environment.
- Students gain practical skills and real-world experience.
- Obtain first-hand experience in various fields allowing them to explore their interests and possible career paths they may want to pursue.
- Gain relevant experience to showcase on resumes that will give them a leg up on other candidates for future opportunities.





Section 3:

Peoria Public Schools 150
Partnership & Veregy Internship



Partnership Background

The Project: Moving Toward District Decarbonization

- Goal of decarbonizing school campus while providing energy and operational savings. Veregy assisted Peoria with securing a Grant Award and all subsequent reporting.
- 15 EV Buses, 16 Mini-Buses complete with electric infrastructure, charging stations, and a backup generator.
- Solar Array on the High School to offset any energy use from the charging stations as well as at the High School.



Photo credit: Peoria Public Schools



Peoria Public SD 150

Peoria, IL



Grant Assistance

Incentives: IRA, SREC, Smart Inverter Rebate

Annual Energy Savings: \$214,352

20 Year Positive Cashflow: \$3,639,775

Contact: Sharon Desmoulins-Kientz, Superintendent (309) 672-6512

3202 N. Wisconsin Ave Peoria, IL 61603



DECARBONIZATION ASSISTANCE

Veregy is working with Peoria Public School District 150 to help them with their ongoing goal of decarbonizing its school campuses. Veregy is assisting with a grant application to help the District secure 15 EV buses, electric infrastructure and charging stations, and a backup generator.

In addition to the EV buses, the grant submission also includes solar PV panels to offset the energy usage for the charging stations. Improvements of this nature will be eligible for IRA rebates of 30% or more of the project cost. The use of solar energy is projected to have annual energy savings of over \$200,000.

By combining the various funding available through grants, rebates, incentives and energy savings, the potential EV and solar improvements are anticipated to have a 7-year payback period and generate over \$3.6M positive cashflow after 20 years for the district.



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Peoria Public Schools: Woodruff Career Center

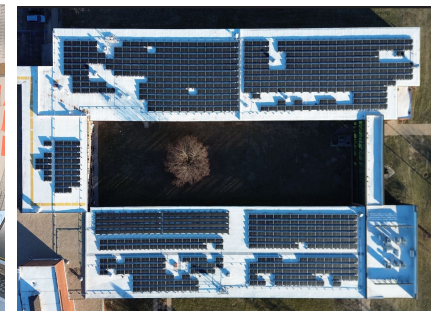
- Provides robust career and technical programming, enabling students to earn credentials and certifications.
- Programs prepare students for either immediate entry into the workforce or post-secondary educational experience.
- Students enter most programs in their junior year and remain in their senior year, with opportunities for internships through work-based learning.
- Peoria's Career Center was able to pair a student perfectly with Veregy's internship Program.



Veregy Internship Program

Woodruff Career and Technical Center – Nassir Collins, Senior

- Nassir is interested in pursuing a career in Construction Management
- Active in school clubs(Key Club, Spanish Club), Athletics(Football, Swim Team), and community(Lifeguard).
- Learned the importance of Safety and, through the Veregy Program, earned his OSHA 30 Certification.
- Key Areas of Program Included:
 - Understanding of Renewable Design & Implementation of Electric Vehicles and Solar Arrays
 - Daily Safety Inspections and Site Documentation
 - Attending Client and Subcontractor Weekly Status Meetings
 - Interviewed Subcontractors and learned key project roles
 - Interviewed Veregy Team Members (Engineering & Operations)
 - Gained Hand-on Experience to further education and career path
- **Nassir is currently enrolled in Bradley University, pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering.**



Section 4:

Oak Park & River Forest High School Veregy Partnership & Internship Program

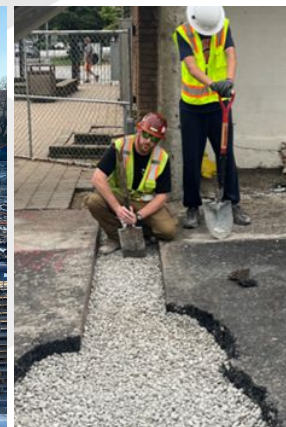
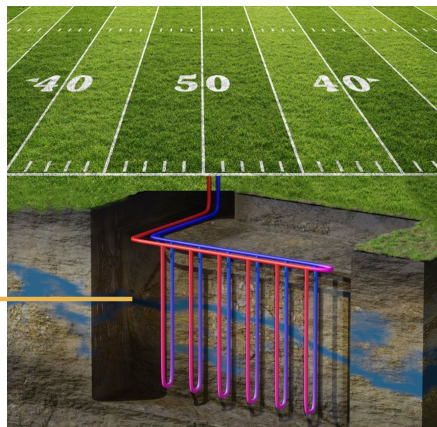
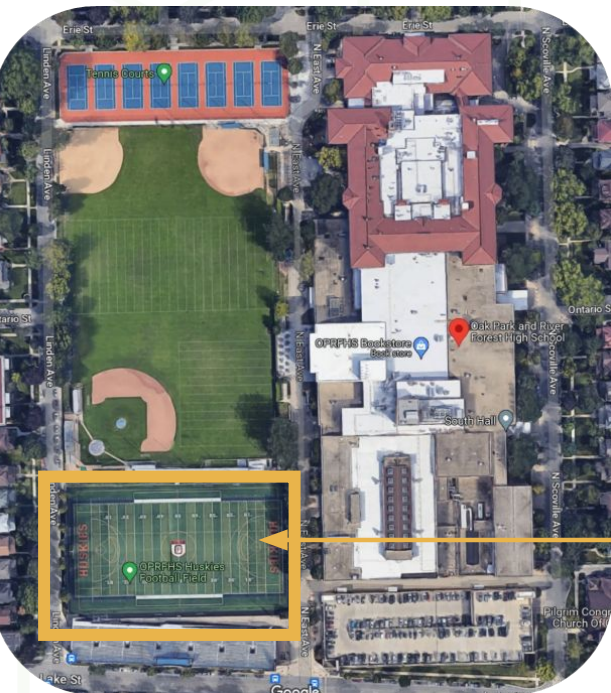


Oak Park and River Forest
High School
District 200

Partnership Background

Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200

- Turnkey (Design/Install) of Geothermal Well Field and new Football Turf
- Utilize design that is focused on reducing long-term Energy and Operational Costs, and Carbon Footprint
- Provide Hands-on Learning Opportunities for High School Students



Internship Selection Process



Veregy, in partnership with the Oak Park River Forest School District, is offering high school students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in renewable energy, decarbonization, and construction management practices. The internship is designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application, giving students a competitive edge as they explore careers in sustainability, engineering, construction management, and beyond.

Internship Highlights:

- **Field Construction Management Internship:** Gain real-world experience in renewable energy while working closely with experienced Veregy project managers. Learn valuable skills while assisting in real-world projects that improve sustainability and energy efficiency.
- **Real-World Problem-Solving:** Tackle real-time challenges, enhance your critical thinking skills, and gain hands-on experience with sustainable energy solutions.
- **Dynamic Career Path Exploration:** From engineering to project management and construction trades, students will be exposed to various career opportunities in the growing fields of sustainability, decarbonization, and energy efficiency.

Resume Building Benefits for Students:

- Valuable resume building experience for college or career applications.
- Insight into a variety of career paths, from construction management to sustainable energy, and beyond.
- Hands-on experience with comprehensive construction projects.
- A real world learning environment that enhances communication, problem-solving, and teamwork skills.
- Flexible school year schedules and paid summer.



OPRF's Internship Promotion/Pre-Selection Process:

- Veregy created materials for OPRF students and parents about the internship including a one-page flyer as well as an application packet to circulate with students.
- A short presentation was given about the internship opportunity

OPRF's Intern Selection Process:

- Veregy Received Sixteen (16) Responses from Oak Park River Forest High School Students which included, Resumes, Questionnaire's, and Videos.
- Veregy has reviewed/evaluated responses in preparation for District Discussion and Next Steps.
- Veregy recommends having District assist Veregy by selecting six (6) finalists for Interview. Veregy and District Interview Final Candidates.
- Veregy provides recommendation for District Approval of Final candidates for Internship Program.

Internship Participation

OPRF's Interns: Isabella and Connor

- Students completed an energy audit of their school's campus, learning from sustainability experts in real-time.
- Students demonstrated leadership and sharpened presentation skills by presenting project updates to the school board.
- Student interns learned from team members across the organization, from the engineering team, to project managers, marketing, and beyond, to discover various career paths and understand how each department plays a role.
- Learned about geothermal energy, engineering design, energy assessments, career paths, and construction safety

What We Do – Services & Solutions



Isabella Kessel

What have you learned thus far:

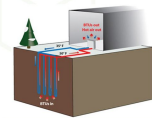
- Construction Safety (PPE, OSHA Standards)
- How Geothermal Energy Works
 - Dig wells
 - How Geothermal Works: Summer Vs. Winter Operation
 - No. of Wells & Well Spacing (18 in. diameter, 606 tons capacity)

What do you anticipate learning?

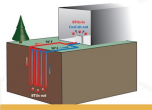
- Career Paths
 - Account Executive
 - Construction Project Manager
 - Safety Superintendent
 - Marketing

What we are looking forward to/excited about in the future:

- Energy & Solar Assessments
- Participating in construction, client, & board meetings



Winter Operating Sequence



Summer Operating Sequence



SIMPLIFYING AND ACCELERATING YOUR ENERGY TRANSITION

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What We Do – Services & Solutions



Connor Czerniawski

What have you learned thus far:

- Details on Veregy

What do you anticipate learning?

- Understanding Engineering Design (Blueprints, Project Development, Mind of an Eng.)
- Understanding Construction (Data collection, Witness implementation/safety in-action)
- Understanding Solar Assessments

What we are looking forward to/excited about in the future:

- Future supervision over the geothermal wellfield
- Visiting other Veregy Construction Sites



SIMPLIFYING AND ACCELERATING YOUR ENERGY TRANSITION

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Veregy Fuels Student Growth in Sustainability Fields



OPRF Students
Collaborate with Veregy
Project Managers for
Hands-On Experience in
Cutting-Edge Project

Swipe to learn more →



Construction of 240 geothermal wells beneath the OPRF football field will do more than just supply 100% of the heating and cooling for Imagine OPRF Project 2. It's also providing real-world work experience for senior Connor Czerniawski and junior Isabella Kessel, who were selected for on-site paid internships with Veregy, the school's geothermal contractor.

What have you especially appreciated about your internship?

Connor: I've been interested in the environment since I was maybe 5; that picture of a polar bear stranded on an ice floe really got to me. I knew then that we really have to do something about climate change. This summer, we're going to help do an energy analysis of the school and identify areas where the building can be more efficient. Being able to have a legacy like that is really nice.

Isabella: It's been a really well-rounded experience. We've met with the engineering group, the marketing group, safety, account management, sales. We interviewed construction workers on the field, which was really fun. We've been able to learn about career paths beyond project management or construction management.

How has this experience influenced your thinking about your career path?

Connor: I'm planning to study environmental engineering at UIC. Going into it now, I'll understand the professional landscape and how to implement engineering processes.

Isabella: I'm really into plants, so initially I was thinking about studying botany. But that doesn't really help with environmental impact. Now I want to study some sort of environmental science. The internship has made me realize this field is a way for me to apply sustainability in the real world, in a way that benefits the community.



Student Work

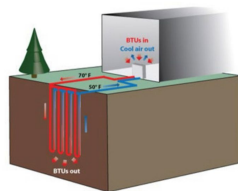
Construction Safety

1. PPE (personal protection equipment)
→ hard hats, high visibility vests, goggles, gloves, steel toed boots, harnesses, etc.
2. OSHA standards
 1. Ensures no one gets injured
 2. Standards for electrical, large vehicles utilized in construction work, ladders, scaffolding, PPE et



Geothermal Energy

1. Pipes (wells) in the ground that circulate water from the building, in the summer building water is hot so the earth cools it and sends it into the school as air conditioning. In the winter, the building pumps out cold water and the earth warms it then sends it back into the building
2. A single unit failure doesn't effect the whole system
3. OPRF's geothermal wellfield has 240 wells, 20ft apart, 18in in diameter, 606 tons total capacity (cooling potential)
4. BTU stands for British Thermal Units



Summer
Operating Sequence

Understanding Engineering Design

1. Reading and understanding blueprints
2. Learn more about the design and development of the geothermal wellfield
3. Get into the mind of an engineer and gain valuable experience



Energy Assessments

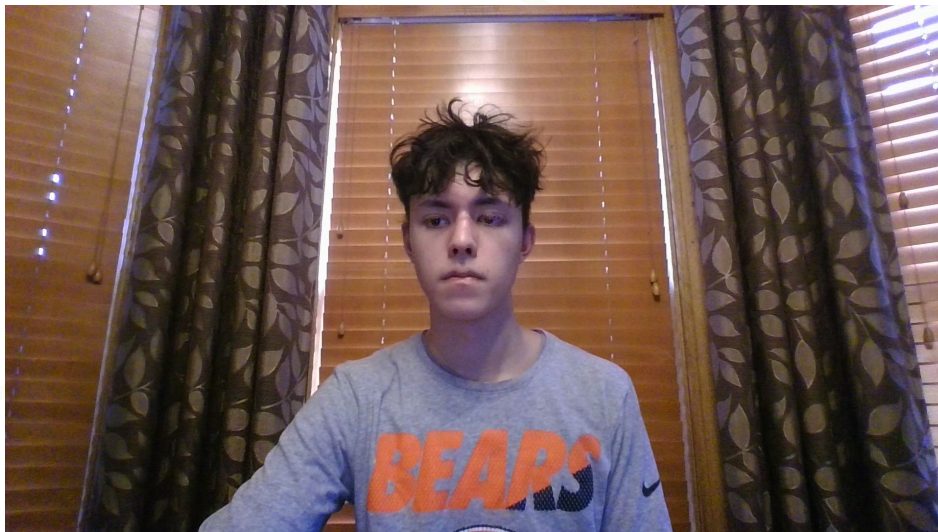
1. Collect data on current energy efficiency situation at OPRF
2. Determine whether or not OPRF is suitable candidate for widespread solar energy
3. Use marketing strategies to convey to people if or if not solar energy is suitable for OPRF
4. Toured the school and learned about existing systems and possible improvements



Student Feedback

OPRF Where are they now:

- Connor is a Freshman at University of IL, studying Environmental Engineering
- Isabella is a Senior at OPRF and is considering pursuing a career in environmental stewardship



Section 5:

Benefits of Hands-on Learning Opportunities



River Bend School District

Fulton, Illinois

A School Where Everybody is Somebody!

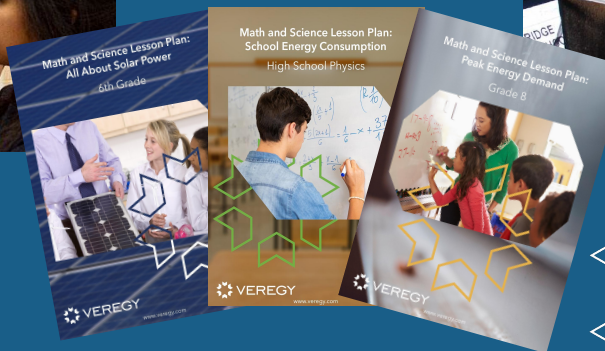
The Veregy Foundation

We work with numerous school districts in the growth of their STEM programs and the pursuit of Sustainability Education.

STEM Energy Curriculum (Wind Power)



Lesson Plans Integrating Your Project and Technology



Solar Car Competitions



Our internship program is yet another way we work to create bright futures for the next generation of leaders.

Benefits of the Hands-on Learning Opportunities

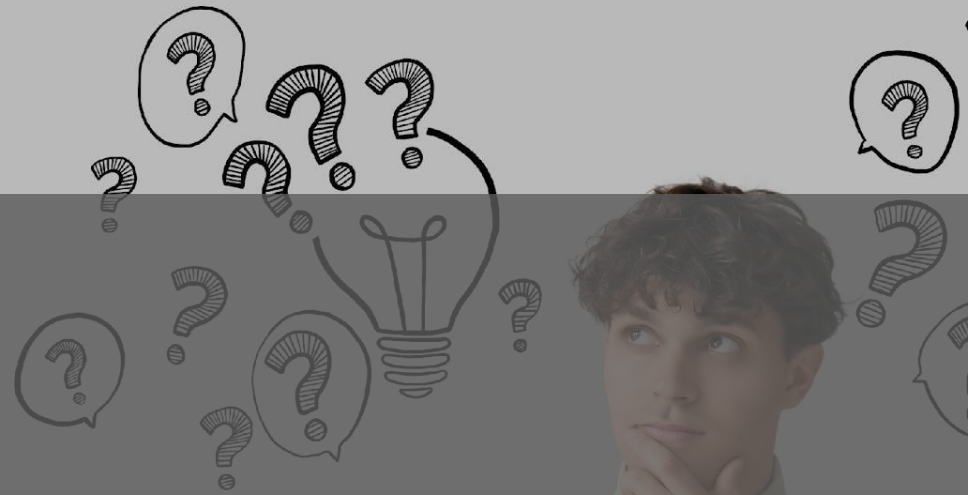


Students who participate will:

- Learn from experienced team members on many aspects of a comprehensive construction project.
- Interview other key roles involved in the development and implementation of a turn-key project.
- Gain Hands-on experience.
- Dynamic learning environment.
- Students gain practical skills and real-world experience.

Section 6:

Discussion and Questions



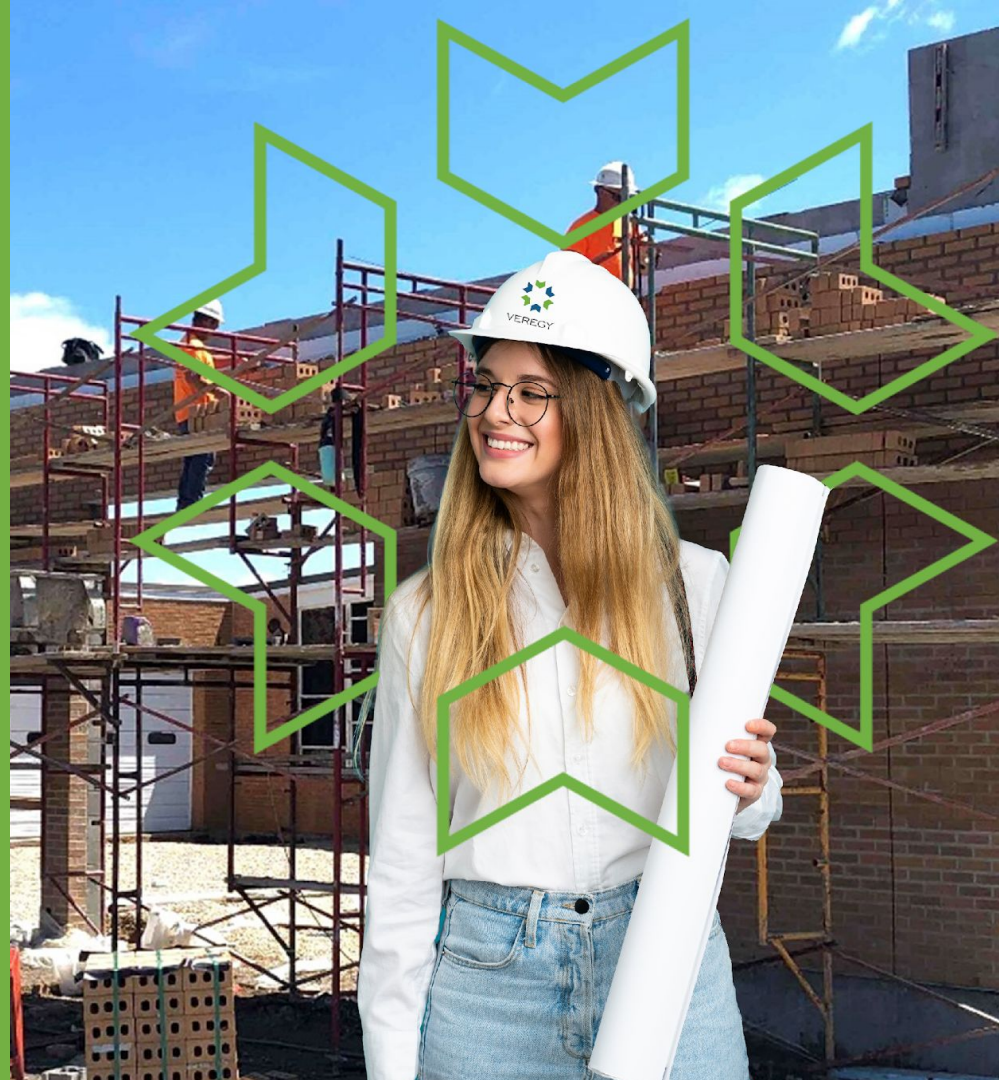


Provide your students with
learning opportunities through
energy conservation projects:



Learn More:

<https://info.veregy.com/veregy-edu-il>





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Thank You