



E.A.R.T.H.

Education And Resiliency Through Horticulture

Service Learning
Internship Program
on

St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands



A joint project between
Iowa State University
College of Agriculture and
Life Sciences and
Gifft Hill School







"My time in the Virgin Islands was educational and enjoyable. Learning and assisting in teaching in such a unique place was a wonderful experience."

- Winston Beck

"I had traveled before, but nothing compared to living as a part of the community on St. John. Being a part of the EARTH program helped me to clarify what I want in my career, and the connections made through the EARTH program continue to open doors in my life."

– Melissa Irizarry

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Student Experience

Undergraduate students will learn about the culture of the people of the Caribbean and U.S. Virgin Islands' agriculture and ecosystems, while assisting with teaching about food and agriculture, including horticulture, soil science, culinary science, nutrition, environmental science, and sustainability, at a preK-12 school. Program activities for school children help them learn how to grow, prepare, and appreciate the many facets of agriculture and food and the environment. University students have the chance to assist with EARTH program outreach and development and explore the U.S. Virgin Islands' ecosystems and National Park during scheduled activities and free time.









Program Description

Students will spend 8-12 weeks on St. John:

- Assisting with EARTH classes/labs
- Designing, installing, and maintaining sustainable gardens and landscapes
- Completing an individual or team project
- Analyzing cultural diversity and its contributions to the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Communicate effectively alone or in teams in written, oral, visual, and electronic forms

Students receive

- Airfare support
- Dormitory housing near school
- 8-14 hours of course credits
- Passport reimbursement (CALS students)

Students provide

- Professionalism, positive attitude, teamwork, and thoughtful effort
- Assistance in EARTH related activities
- Completion of course requirements





