

Reflections

*Technology Rotation: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA):
National Agricultural Library (NAL): Food & Nutrition Information Center (FNIC)*

A small area set off by walls for special use. Does this sound inviting? Cubicles generally are portrayed as tiny, confined, unhappy workplaces, and I accepted this stereotype until I worked at FNIC. Contrary to the stigma, cubicle work-style proved pleasant, advantageous, and enjoyable at FNIC. I entered this internship with an open mind, but I expected, not only to work hard, but also to complete some “gopher” assignments since this is an internship. However, FNIC team members welcomed me into their workplace and made me feel like a significant member of their team. Without the team’s encouragement and responsiveness, the cubicle work-style may have fallen into the stigma.

Although a strong work ethic always remains a major component in any assignment I take on, my motivation was piqued notably by the positive team attitude. I benefited from collaborations with my internship partner and with FNIC team members, and I also took advantage of the independent assignments to develop my research, writing, and reviewing skills further. Through collaborations with the Web Reference team and the WICWorks team, I gained valuable feedback throughout the work experience, enabling the enhancement of my skill sets in web design and critique, online research, database augmentation, team collaboration, and (answering patron questions in layman’s terms?).