



BIG UNIVERSITY, SMALL COLLEGE FEEL.

Take advantage of a big campus with state-of-the-art facilities while benefitting from the family feel of a small college.

How did Education major Shelana Martin end up in a National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) internship?

The senior in the Digital Environments for Learning, Teaching & Agency concentration under the College's **Learning and Education Studies** program, was part of NCSA's SPIN (Students Pushing Innovation) internship program. SPIN fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, encouraging Illinois undergraduate students, and not just computer science students, to do challenging research related to cutting-edge new technology.

For Martin, who has a background in astronomy, a minor in informatics, and is majoring in education technology, the SPIN program, retrofitting cybersecurity facts into an engaging educational technology format, was a perfect fit. Martin learned how to create content and make it more immersive on an open source learning management system, and how to use information to make the experience more interactive for learners.

LES students have been hired by colleges and universities, Goldman Sachs, Walt Disney, and Blue Cross Blue Shield. They have also gone on to pursue graduate studies at prestigious institutions like Harvard University.

“ I love how close and engaging the College is with its students. My adviser was the first person that I saw smiling and welcoming me to the College. She encouraged me to step outside of my comfort zone by studying abroad and she made sure that I was connected to the right people on campus.”